

Alexander Gunyon

From: Sarah Couzens [REDACTED]
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To: Consultations
Subject: Objection to Policy W4 Brooklands Farm

Categories: Blue category

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I object to Policy W4 Brooklands Farm.

There are many many reasons why I object to Policy W4 Brooklands Farm.

This is prime greenbelt land and should not even be figuring in any plans - this would be the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land as well as the loss of open-landscape wildlife habitats, which is bad for genuine biodiversity. The south east "Garden of England", and Whitstable in this case, does not need any more concrete. Building in this area would lead to the permanent destruction of the rural nature of the valley of the Swalecliffe Brook, which provides the unofficial Green Belt between urban Whitstable and The Blean. Why has CCC not provided this with protected status?

As a member of the cricket club I have seen first hand the effects of flooding from the brook and off the land. To concrete over his green land would just exacerbate these flooding problems at Brooklands and downstream in Chestfield and Swalecliffe.

A further housing development will lead to significantly increased traffic on local roads - CCC don't know how bad this will be because the Local Plan traffic modelling was totally inadequate. Local roads are a mess already and increased traffic from more housing will only make them worse.

Local health services already badly over-stretched with patients frequently unable to get beds in hospitals. We have a great local medical practice but this will struggle to keep up demand with all the proposed new properties and all the people they would bring to the area.

Swalecliffe sewage works already unable to cope with existing demand resulting in serious illness for some visitors to local beaches. This is totally unacceptable for a town with a famous seafood tradition that aspires to be a tourist destination. Locals can't use the beaches and the water company are not moving quickly to sort it out. The infrastructure is not there for more local houses.

The development would not be sustainable. Whitstable is not the right place to build houses for Canterbury commuters. Have you seen the roads to Canterbury? More traffic would make them even worse. Furthermore, Whitstable town is not designed for locals, but for tourists. Again not sustainable for a population increase.

And lastly, new local developments are already struggling to sell their properties (which are being rushed and are substandard - I know this as my mum bought one) which means this proposed development could be a complete white elephant anyway.

Yours faithfully

Sarah Couzens
Local resident

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