

Alexander Gunyon

From: George Pelham [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 May 2024 08:28
To: Consultations
Subject: Objection to Policy R5 - Bread and Cheese Field

Categories: Blue category

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Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is George Pelham – I live at [REDACTED]; I am writing to emphatically express my opposition on the inclusion of the bread and cheese field as a strategic site for housing development in the draft Canterbury district local plan 2040.

There are a huge number of reasons for my opposition to this. Firstly, the A28 is well known to be an extremely busy A road with huge amounts of traffic. This has become busier with the recent large housing developments, and it's a major problem every day for my family and I; safety is also an issue when trying to join the main road leaving Westbere. It simply cannot keep supporting the increase in traffic that new development would create.

Secondly, this massive development that has been proposed will effectively result in the merger of Westbere and Hersden, by removing the green space between them that the field provides. There has been an attempt to show this won't be the case by excluding the houses on Bushy Hill Road from the official settlement of Westbere in the draft local plan, though, Bushy Hill Road is absolutely a part of Westbere. The individual identities of Westbere and Hersden will effectively be destroyed, and will result in continuous development along the south side of the A28, which, as discussed, is hugely unsustainable.

Thirdly, the local shops in the area (doctors, dentists) are already woefully inadequate to the existing population – getting a dentist appointment is next to impossible – so another 150 homes would make this even more of a problem. There was a recent report, produced by ACRA, arguing that Canterbury City Council has grossly overstated the population graph for the area, and therefore, the demand for houses.

Finally, the field itself is of significant historical importance to Westbere, with a history that goes back hundreds of years. Not to mention, the bread and cheese field provides a source of biodiversity and supports a vast array of wildlife, which will inevitably disappear from any developments. R5 cites a 20% biodiversity net gain; any development would have an opposite effect.

I cannot express enough my deep feelings of opposition to this plan, and my utter dismay when I heard of the news. I do hope the council will listen to our community's objections, and make the right decision.

Thanks so much,
George Pelham