

Alexander Gunyon

From: Caroline Wagstaff [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 May 2024 10:54
To: Consultations
Subject: I object to Policy W4 Brooklands Farm

Caroline Wagstaff
[REDACTED]

**Planning Department
Canterbury City Council
Military Road
Canterbury CT1 1YW**

Dear Planning Officer,

Re: Objection to Planning Application Policy W4 Brooklands Farm

I am a resident of Whitstable, deeply invested in the well-being and future of our community. I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed development at Brooklands Farm, as outlined in the planning application Policy W4 Brooklands Farm. My objections are rooted in substantial concerns that I believe warrant serious consideration:

1. Environmental Impact:

The proposed development poses a significant risk of increased flooding at Brooklands, with potential downstream effects in Chestfield and Swalecliffe. This not only threatens local properties but also the natural habitats within these areas.

2. Strain on Health Services:

Our local health services are already stretched thin, with many residents struggling to secure hospital beds and dentists appointments. The influx of new residents will exacerbate this issue, compromising the health and safety of the community.

3. Traffic Congestion:

The expected increase in traffic due to the development will further strain our local roads. The inadequacy of the Local Plan's traffic modelling fails to address the severity of this impact, which will lead to increased pollution and diminished quality of life.

4. Sewage and Water Supply:

The Swalecliffe sewage works are currently overwhelmed, and additional housing will only worsen the situation, leading to more sewage discharge into the sea. This is particularly concerning for a town renowned for its seafood and aspiring to be a tourist destination. Moreover, the increased demand on our water supply could lead to more frequent hosepipe bans. The current building of an overflow/discharge pipe by Southern Water 400 metres into the sea will only ease the current situation and not cater for any additional house builds.

5. Loss of Agricultural Land and Biodiversity:

The development will result in the loss of some of the best and most versatile agricultural land, as well as open-landscape wildlife habitats. This is detrimental to genuine biodiversity and the rural character of the Swalecliffe Brook valley, an essential green buffer between urban Whitstable and The Blean.

6. Impact on Local Residents:

The loss of amenity for local residents cannot be overstated. The permanent alteration of our countryside to concrete will not only affect the landscape but also the wildlife that calls it home.

7. Unsustainable Development:

Lastly, the proposed development is not sustainable. Whitstable should not be a site for building houses primarily for Canterbury commuters, as it undermines the integrity and sustainability of our local community.

In light of these points, I urge the planning committee to refuse the proposed development. It is essential that we protect the interests of our community and the environment we cherish.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Caroline Wagstaff