

Alexander Gunyon

From: Liz Gladin [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 May 2024 20:58
To: Consultations
Subject: Re:Policy 4 Brooklands Farm

Categories: Blue category

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I am writing to note my objection to Policy W4 Brooklands Farm. My objection relates to the loss of much-needed green space and open land in Whitstable and to negative impacts on wildlife due to habitat degradation and loss with the increase of housing development. I ask whether or not this action undermines the local authority's responsibilities towards the 'biodiversity duty' published in 2023 (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/complying-with-the-biodiversity-duty>), which requires that you must do as much as possible to conserve and enhance biodiversity and act to deliver policies and objectives in support of the objectives of the Biodiversity net gain and in preparation for the statutory reporting on your biodiversity net gain activities in 2026.

Additionally, the increase in traffic and subsequent increases in pollution in the area will have a negative impact on the health and well-being of local residents and visitors to Whitstable and surrounding areas. Poor air quality is the biggest environmental risk to public health, with children, the elderly and the already vulnerable most affected. As you will be aware, The Clean Air (Human Rights) Bill (Ella's Law) was introduced and passed in the House of Lords in 2022. Whilst not yet a legal obligation, it will undoubtedly pass into law with the next government, and local authorities need to anticipate the radical changes this will bring to cases such as this instance. Should you opt to fail in your basic duties of care in these instances, the consequential costs to vulnerable individuals will be high. The area's lack of proper infrastructure will add to traffic, especially to Canterbury and Chestfield, worsening the situation. The urgency of addressing these health concerns cannot be overstated.

Last but not least, Whitstable discharges an unacceptable amount of sewage into the sea, and this development would only add pressure to the already failing system. Not to mention the adverse impacts of this action on the ongoing flooding problem in the area.

Elizabeth Gladin