

Alexander Gunyon

From: Jonathan Thirlwell [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 May 2024 13:28
To: Consultations
Subject: Objection to Policies W3 and W4 (Brooklands Farm) in Draft Local Plan to 2040

Categories: Blue category

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Dear Planning Department of Canterbury City Council,

I write to strongly object to policies W3 and W4 (Brooklands Farm) of the draft Local Plan to 2040.

This is for the following reasons:

1. The local plan's **traffic modelling has been inadequate**, failing to accurately assess the impact of significantly increased traffic on local roads. This oversight could lead to severe congestion and safety concerns.
2. The development would result in the **loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land**, which is crucial for local food production and the agricultural economy.
3. The proposed development poses **a significant risk of increased flooding** at Brooklands and downstream areas in Chestfield and Swalecliffe. This would endanger properties and lives, as well as burden local resources.
4. The proposed development **threatens open-landscape wildlife habitats**, which are essential for maintaining genuine biodiversity in the area.
5. **Local health services are overstretched**, with patients frequently unable to secure beds in hospitals. This development would exacerbate the situation, potentially compromising the quality of healthcare available to residents.
6. The development would permanently **destroy the rural character of the valley of the Swalecliffe Brook**, which serves as an unofficial Green Belt between urban Whitstable and The Blean. It is perplexing why this area has not been provided with protected status by the Council.
7. The **Swalecliffe sewage works are unable to cope with existing demand**, leading to serious illness among visitors to local beaches. This situation is unacceptable for a town renowned for its seafood and aspiring to be a tourist destination.
8. **Local residents would suffer a loss of amenity**, as the development would negatively impact the quality of life and access to natural spaces.

9. **The development is not sustainable.** Whitstable is not a suitable location for housing intended for Canterbury commuters, as it would undermine the town's character and infrastructure.

I urge the Canterbury City Council to reconsider these policies and protect the valuable environmental, social, and economic assets of our community.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Thirlwell

