

Alexander Gunyon

From: John Morcom [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 May 2024 14:01
To: Consultations
Subject: Policy R5 – Bread and Cheese Field: Objection

Categories: Blue category

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Dear Sirs,

I write to express my strong objections to Policy R5 – Bread and Cheese Field, contained in the Canterbury Council Local Plan 2040.

First, the proposed concept is based upon a flawed definition of the settlement of Westbere in the draft local plan that does not include Bushy Hill Road as part of the Settlement of Westbere, despite the fact that Bushy Hill Road is both physically part of the village and contains many people who are members of the Westbere Village Preservation Society and hence clearly consider themselves to be part of the Westbere Village settlement.

Second, development on the Bread and Cheese Field will remove the current Green Space between Westbere and Hersden and result in their merger. This will destroy the individual identities of Westbere and Hersden and result in a continuous ribbon development along the south side of the A28.

Third, development of this green field site is contrary to spatial strategy item 1.14, in that it ignores the “intrinsic value” of this green field and the “contribution this makes to the rural character” of Westbere.

Fourth, according to a recent report produced by ACRA, (Alliance of Canterbury Residents’ Association) Canterbury City Council has grossly over-stated the population growth for the area and, therefore, the demand for houses. Therefore, the Bread and Cheese Field is simply not needed as a development site.

Fifth, the Bread and Cheese Field, along with the ancient woodland and hedgerows, provides a vital source of biodiversity and supports a wide range of wildlife (including kestrels, buzzards, foxes, swallows and bats that have been sighted hunting on or above the Field). This will largely disappear with any development. R5 cites “opportunities for green corridors” and a 20% biodiversity net gain, but it is inconceivable that biodiversity will be enhanced by building 150 dwellings on a green field with ancient woodland and hedgerows.

Sixth, the A28 is already a busy A-road, that has got significantly busier with the recent large housing developments at Hoplands Park, Westbere Edge, Chislet Colliery and other developments that are feeding additional traffic onto the A28. The addition of extra homes on the Bread and Cheese Field will only worsen this situation, which is already adversely affecting my family’s sleep and enjoyment of our home as our rear garden backs directly onto the A28, as well as making it more difficult and dangerous to exit onto the A28.

Finally, the Bread and Cheese Field is of significant historic importance to the village of Westbere, with a charitable history that can be traced back over 300 years and is still continuing today (see Community Governance Review – Westbere and Hersden parish boundary).

Yours faithfully,

Christopher John Morcom
Treasurer, Westbere Village Preservation Society

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