

Alexander Gunyon

From: Virginia Munns [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 May 2024 15:17
To: Consultations
Subject: Objection to Policy W4 Brooklands Farm Development

Categories: Blue category

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Dear Council Members,

I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed Policy W4 Brooklands Farm development based on the following grounds:

1. **Increased Flooding Risk:** The development poses a significant risk of increased flooding at Brooklands and downstream areas such as Chestfield and Swalecliffe. This is a major concern, especially considering the already vulnerable nature of these areas to flooding.
2. **Overstretched Health Services:** Local health services are already severely overstretched, with patients frequently unable to secure hospital beds. The proposed development would further strain these services, potentially leading to adverse health outcomes for residents.
3. **Increased Traffic:** The development is expected to result in significantly increased traffic on local roads. The Council's traffic modeling for the Local Plan is inadequate and does not accurately assess the potential traffic impact of the development. This is a major concern for residents who already face traffic congestion on a daily basis.
4. **Sewage Issues:** The Swalecliffe sewage works is already unable to cope with existing demand, resulting in serious illness for some visitors to local beaches. This is unacceptable for a town with a renowned seafood tradition that aspires to be a tourist destination. The development would only exacerbate this issue.
5. **Loss of Agricultural Land:** The proposed development would result in the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land. This is a valuable resource that should be protected for future generations.
6. **Loss of Wildlife Habitats:** The development would also lead to the loss of open-landscape wildlife habitats, which is detrimental to genuine biodiversity. This is a significant concern for those who value the natural environment and the wildlife that depends on it.
7. **Destruction of Rural Character:** The development would permanently destroy the rural nature of the valley of the Swalecliffe Brook, which serves as an unofficial Green Belt between urban Whitstable and The Blean. It is disappointing that the Council has not provided this beautiful green and lucious area with the protected status it deserves and should have already.
8. **Loss of Amenity:** The development would negatively impact the amenity of local residents, reducing their quality of life. There is nowhere else even remotely like

this in the vicinity. Numerous and diverse people use this space for walking and cycling etc and other activities vital to physical and mental health. It became even more so around the time of the pandemic. To destroy this would be, quite frankly, criminal.

9. **Unsustainable Development:** The development is not "sustainable" in the true sense of the term. Whitstable is not the ideal location for building houses for Canterbury commuters. It is crucial to consider the long-term effects of such developments and prioritize sustainable urban planning.

I urge you to reconsider Policy W4 Brooklands Farm development and reject it in its current form. The concerns outlined above are serious and must be addressed to ensure the well-being of residents and the preservation of the natural environment.

Sincerely,
Virginia