

## Alexander Gunyon

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**From:** Robyn Murdo-Smith [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 28 May 2024 14:59  
**To:** Consultations  
**Subject:** I strongly object to policies W3 and W4 (Brooklands Farm) of the draft Local Plan to 2040

**Categories:** Blue category

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### --Email From External Account--

I object for the following reasons:

1. Loss of high-quality landscape with wonderful rural views of the distant Blean. CCC's Landscape Character Assessment 2020 recommended that CCC should reinforce the open rural setting south of Whitstable and resist development in the A299 New Thanet Way corridor;
2. This is not a sustainable place to build a large development, from which (if its like the rest of south Chestfield) more people would be commuting to Canterbury than any other destination, almost all of them by car. It will also contribute to traffic congestion in the north Canterbury area;
3. Increased flood risk downstream on the Swalecliffe Brook. At present heavy rain sits on the farmland before it slowly evaporates or trickles into the Brook. Vast areas of storage would be required to accommodate rainwater run-off from any urban development, but this could not be located close to the Brook because that area already floods when the river level rises over the riverbanks as happened in February;
4. Lack of health facilities. Local residents now find they can't secure an appointment with a local GP, and if they need hospital treatment they regularly endure a prolonged wait in the hospital corridor due to lack of beds;
5. The local sewage works cannot cope with the increasing demand, and regularly releases untreated sewage into the sea, causing instances of serious illness for people on local beaches. The new outfall under construction will not solve this problem., it will merely push the problem further out to sea but the currents will pull it back in again;
6. The proposed new junction linking the A299 to Chestfield Rd and South Street

would have unacceptable adverse consequences for local people, road safety and pollution in residential areas;

7. Seriously negative impact on Biodiversity. There is a lot of insect life associated with the cattle of Brooklands Farm, and consequently there are swallows, house martins, wagtails, numerous bats and no doubt much more that is less easy to see. There is also wildlife on the arable fields, e.g. skylarks;

8. Adverse effect on the Convicts Wood Local Wildlife Site. Building 1,400 houses nearby would cause it to be severely degraded and used as a children's recreation area and dog-walking route;

9. Loss of "Best and most versatile" agricultural land;

10. CCC needs to recognise that housing developments affect the coastal towns much more severely than Canterbury. Canterbury can expand to north, east, south and west. Whitstable can only expand southwards, as it is constrained by marshland to the west, and by Herne Bay to the east. What little farmland that remains within easy walking distance of Whitstable is needed for residents' recreation and well-being as well as to preserve the last vestiges of the natural setting of this tourist destination town. Therefore, the farmland between the Blean woodland and the existing urban edge of Whitstable should be given statutory protection;

11. In general I am also concerned that the new homes which are being built will not assist new home buyers as what is being built in most places looks to be far too large and expensive.

Robyn Murdo-Smith

