



28th May 2024

The Planning Department
Canterbury City Council Offices,
Military Road,
Canterbury CT1 1YW

Dear Sir

Proposal for development at Brooklands Farm

I object to the proposal for this development. I consider that there are numerous reasons why the plan should be rejected and I understand that various people are communicating their concerns. I attach a short summary of 3 pages giving some of my concerns.

Yours faithfully

G.T.Alston

Encl 3 pages

PROPOSAL FOR DEVELOPMENT – Land at Brooklands Farm

I object to the Plan. My reasons and concerns include the following.

A) FLOODING

It has been widely reported that around the East and South coasts of England there are properties disappearing into the sea. No-one (national government, local government or other) has stopped this happening. Coastal erosion and rising sea levels are a fact. I suggest that history has shown that there will not be available the financial resources to protect further sites from the same perils.

A map published by The Environment Agency shows areas around the country that are likely to be under water by 2050.

Kent has a low-lying coastal area that may have to be sacrificed to rising sea levels. This will have the effect of increasing the population density per acre of land left.

The Environment agency report shows parts of Whitstable will be under water, and also Thanet will become an island again. This would have inevitable consequences.

Health and Health Services

In many 999 call-outs the ambulance services take Whitstable and Herne Bay residents to QEQM hospital in Margate in Thanet. The same hospital also serves those people for scans and other services.

Before any increase in Whitstable area population is to be even considered there should be positive action taken to ensure these health services are maintained by alternative means for those living in Whitstable and Herne Bay when Margate hospital becomes literally across the water. Until positive action – not promises – is taken no development should be considered.

It is widely reported that people need access to nature for both their mental and physical health. The proposal has the effect of driving the country away from those living in the town centre and so is counter-productive to that. Brooklands Farm should be retained as farmland or become whatever the natural environment was before farming pushed it out.

The Environment Agency report shows three open spaces in Whitstable may be lost – Whitstable golf course, Cornwallis Circle and Westmeads ground. Possibly also lost maybe Whitstable football and cricket grounds next to Belmont Road. This strongly enhances the need to retain all the current open spaces – farmland, playing fields, woodland, etc - surrounding Whitstable together with the trees and hedgerows surrounding them.

Whitstable community

Living in the parts of Whitstable that are likely to be under water is a community with all the associated buildings - houses hotels shops offices schools churches and community centres etc. Even those houses on slightly higher ground may find access to their properties restricted or impossible due to access roads being under water. The community could become refugees in their own country. What action has been taken for dealing with that situation? I consider that it is far more important for time and resources to be spent on planning for that event.

B) ACCES TO AND FROM WHITSTABLE TOWN CENTRE

Any development south of the A2990 (ie the old Thanet way) will likely increase the traffic into Whitstable.

The area covered by old central Whitstable together with Tankerton and Swalecliffe (ie the area north of the rail line) has only four routes to and from south of the rail line.

The map of Whitstable shows the four routes are -

- the bridge under the railway at Canterbury Road traffic lights.
- the hump-back bridge over railway at Castle Road / Church Street
- the hump-back bridge over railway at Ham Shades Lane
- the bridge under the railway next to Chestfield station.

Actually visiting these sites shows all four are quite restrictive bottlenecks.

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Problems vary on these routes but include narrow footpaths (in two instances footpath on one side only), one-way only traffic, and poor visibility. All would have great difficulty in taking more road traffic and pedestrians. These bottlenecks are certainly not good news for the emergency and bus services. So any extra building development would be creating unmanageable problems.

The Brooklands Farm proposal is likely to increase traffic along Ham Shades Lane. It is already clearly a route taken by people getting from Chestfield into central Whitstable. Also it is used by those turning off the Thanet way for the Eastern end of Tankerton.

Ham Shades Lane presents problems:

The lane is narrow - approximately 17 foot wide.

There is only ONE footpath serving the lane.

It is a main bus route for some Whitstable to Canterbury double decker buses. Currently, even if a lorry is parked partially on the pavement, busses have difficulty squeezing by. Meanwhile those using wheelchairs or pushing prams are totally unable to proceed.

Schoolchildren use the single footpath as access to the senior school.

The lane is sometimes flooded making it extremely difficult for pedestrians to avoid being extensively soaked by vehicles travelling by.

I confirm that I object to the published plan for Brooklands Farm.

Yours faithfully

G. T. Alston

