



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

26 May 2024

We strongly object to policies W3 and W4 (Brooklands Farm) of the draft Local Plan to 2040 for the following reasons:

1. "Best and most versatile" agricultural land will be lost, together with wildlife and have a negative impact on biodiversity. This land creates a part of the rural nature of the area between Whitstable and The Blean, together with the Swalecliffe Brook.
2. The junction linking South Street and Chestfield Road with the A299 will cause unacceptable increases in pollution and traffic problems for local residents. Both roads would add traffic to a two mile stretch of the A2990 between Long Reach and Bodkin Farm that already has recent residential developments of 750 dwellings under construction, with sole access from the A2990. Both roads experience traffic problems especially in the holiday seasons.
3. Whitstable is a traditional seaside town and fishing harbour. The existing infrastructure is not designed to serve as a satellite to Canterbury. Canterbury Hospital has been downgraded, without A&E, and Margate's QEQM treat patients in the hospital corridor due to a lack of beds. It is already difficult to secure an appointment with a local GP. Local sewage works release regularly untreated sewage into the sea, there are instances of serious illness for people using local beaches. Hosepipe bans are now a regular summer feature, increase in usage will not make existing problems any easier. And despite police presence in the town being a major plot subject in a TV detective series, the luxury of a police station has been absent for a good number of years.
4. Little farmland remains within easy walking distance of Whitstable for residents' and visitors' recreation, a part of the remaining rural and maritime character of Kent. Such areas along the urban edge of the town and The Blean should be given statutory protection.

For the reasons given, we regard the proposals as contravening paragraphs 135c, 168, 173, 180b, 180d and 191b of the Government's National Planning Policy Framework and should therefore be rejected by the Council.


Klaus Breitfeld


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