

Alexander Gunyon

From: Alison Cooper [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 May 2024 09:23
To: Consultations
Subject: I object to Policy W4 of Canterbury City Council's district plan.

Categories: Blue category

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Dear Council,

I object to the proposed development of Brooklands farm as detailed in W4 of the district plan.

*I object as the impact on the local area of a development of this size will be detrimental and would lead to the permanent destruction of the rural nature of the valley of the Swalecliffe brook.

*Local impact . There has already been (and continues to be) large scale housing development in the Whitstable area and this has highlighted that public services such as GPs and hospitals appear to be running at capacity already.

*Traffic. Traffic in and around the W4 development would also be a major issue.2 new slip roads connecting A299 New Thanet way to Chestfield Road would result in a huge increase in traffic in South Street, Chestfield Road and the Radfall Hill route between Canterbury and Whitstable/ Chestfield. Adding more traffic and indeed building more roads (to feed into this area) will only exacerbate the existing congestion problems.

*Wildlife and Biodiversity. The lowland meadows are used for rearing cattle, these meadows are havens for wildlife . The meadows are rich in insect life . Buzzards and skylarks are often seen in the area. The developers have previously conceded that the site lies in an area of high landscape value and the proposed development would have a significant effect on the local area.

* Food and Farming. The proposed W4 development will mean the loss of valuable agricultural land which is used for growing wheat and barley . The land that is elevated and relatively well drained, therefore likely to be counted as "best and most versatile " agricultural land which the Government advises should not be used for development. We need to protect this land for us and future generations to ensure agriculture in this area is maintained.

*Water. It is well known that Whitstable and the surrounding area is a water stressed district. With our current population problems arise with water supply, necessitating hosepipe bans to ration water. Waste water, pollution and sewage problems are also all too common. Swalecliffe sewage works is already unable to cope with the existing demand. This has on occasion resulted in overspill and resultant illness for visitors to the local beaches. This is totally unacceptable to an area with a famous seafood tradition and a tourist destination. Large scale development such as proposed at Brooklands would only escalate the problem.

*Surface flooding is also an issue for the W4 site as there is London clay in the valley of the Swalecliffe brook which has a tendency to flood. Adding large areas of hard standing would substantially increase the risk of flooding in the area.So building here would contradict the environmental strategy for the district which states that proposals that increase the risk of flooding will be refused.

IT IS FOR THE AFOREMENTIONED REASONS THAT I OBJECT TO POLICY W4 of Canterbury City Council's draft Local plan.

From Mrs. Alison Cooper, [REDACTED]