

Alexander Gunyon

From: maureen joyce [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 May 2024 12:06
To: Consultations
Subject: Re: Policy R5 Bread and cheese field Westbere

Categories: Blue category

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I would like to write and lodge my strong objections to any development on the Cheese and Bread field, as a long term resident of Westbere for the past [REDACTED] years.

We have more than enough new housing with all the Red row properties that are now inhabited or some that have and are failing to sell already with the market downturn.

The reasons being are as follows

As a Westbere resident the entrance to my house is Pennington Close and such is the huge weight of traffic currently that it not only take a considerable time to be safely able to turn out onto the A28 now, but it is becoming more and more precarious now. Even a short trip to the local shop can average out to be three times the duration of what it used to be. Not easy when you have disabilities to cope with at all.

Also due to the constant flow of traffic day and night the air pollution is now often quite poor in the area, i looked into this as an Asthma sufferer and the noise of traffic is much worse than ever before.

We have a Doctors surgery that is now unable to cope with the sheer amount of people in the area both in getting actual appointments and the totally inadequate spaces for people to attend there, there are no local Dentists in the areas and little to no outlets for children that need to have open and access to green spaces to play safely.

Since we have lived here, which we chose Westbere as a relatively untouched part of east Kent then that retained its authentic charm of an old world village feel, now we are surrounded by hundreds of new houses in the area, many are using the local nature spots like the lakes with no regard at all for conservation or nature, there are groups of youths down the lakes each summer now drinking and causing issues, litter everywhere., not to mention the dog walkers that choose the village to walk as its quieter and leave behind huge amounts of dog faeces with no regard to villagers at all. Again this is all fairly recent.

Of course when you have a massive influx of people into an area it will certainly change the ambience of these quaint little villages, that once were the very charm itself that brought tourists into East Kent. These are now being destroyed systematically with all these new builds.

The infrastructure to sustain this ever growing need for housing, that supports cohesive living is not there, no primary schools that can cope, doctors hospitals and as i have stated little in the way of community hubs to keep teenagers happy.

There seems also to be a total disregard by the planners for the wildlife that are shifted into ever smaller spaces now, where once they had open land in which to roam freely and live healthily they are now pushed away completely. Bats are a common sight in and around Westbere and the B&C field alongside kestrels and buzzards that thrive on the voles in the field. You are denying them access to food they need to sustain them, we cannot keep pushing and killing off our native wildlife, many are already in such decline our grandchildren will only see them in books in the future.

We need diversity yes, but CCC also needs to look and see the huge importance that these beautiful and now scarce little villages hold, once gone they will never return. These are special places for the residents, visitors that use the village pub and the much loved wildlife, by literally boxing westbere in amongst new house it loses its charm and interest alongside all its historical values to the city.

We cannot see how merging Hersen and Westbere is beneficial to either village we both have our own identity and should be allowed to retain that as individual places.

The A28 is crumbling with pot holes in places now, add even more traffic and remember that the sturry crossing is holding up traffic that literally backs up to Pennington close and its a disaster for those that have to commute daily, not to mention the emergency services that need fast access..

I would strongly urge you to not use this field for more residential properties.
In time Canterbury council will look back with horror at what we are losing or what is already lost.
Please think again and realise that enough is enough.

Maureen Joyce

