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From: Sophie Brace [REDACTED]
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Categories: Blue category

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I am writing to express my strong opposition Policy W4 Brooklands Farm. My objection to this planned development is based on numerous factors, which I will outline below.

Firstly, flooding has always been an issue in Chestfield with Radfall Road regularly flooding at the junction with South Street during heavy rain. This flooding often leads to the closure of Radfall Road (a main route into Canterbury). Building on the Brooklands Farm site will rob the area of an important green space and natural drainage which can only lead to more and more significant flooding.

Water supply is also an ever-increasing issue in the local area with multiple leaks recently leading to many homes being without water for prolonged periods and to road closures across the area causing traffic chaos and leading to dangerous levels of congestion on side streets and lanes which are not adequate to accommodate the high traffic numbers or large vehicles which are forced to use them. Placing additional strain on an already aging and poorly maintained system can only lead to more leaks, water shortages and road closures.

Regarding water, the sewage works at Swalecliffe are not currently fit for purpose and are unable to cope with existing demand. Regular discharges into the sea have left residents and visitors alike seriously ill. Thames Water are promoting the use of natural drainage and green space to manage the rate of surface water runoff, improve flooding resilience and reduce the need for overflow tanks. The development of Brooklands flies in the face of this environmental based plan and instead would force more surface water runoff into the overstretched sewage system leading to larger and more frequent discharges into the sea.

The open landscape also offers important biodiversity on the outskirts of an urban area and provides a habitat for a wide variety of wildlife including skylarks. Furthermore, the land acts as a green belt between The Blean and the urban area. Destruction of this would be disastrous for multiple species and potentially catastrophic for the Swalecliffe Brook

Additionally, health services in the area are already overstretched with a lack of NHS dentist spaces, long waiting times for appointments at local surgeries and long queues at pharmacies. There are already long waits in A&E departments at local hospitals and a lack of available beds. The addition of 1400 new homes can only place even more pressure on these vital but overburdened services.

Finally, if the decision is taken to develop Brookland Farm in accordance with the plans then we can expect the 1400 homes to bring with them 2296 additional cars to local roads (data based on 2021 census showing an average car ownership of 1.64 cars per household in the Canterbury area). Inadequate traffic plan modelling means that we cannot accurately predict the impact of additional cars but the current poor state of local roads especially with regard to potholes can only be made worse by the addition of more cars and therefore increased wear and tear.

I sincerely hope that you will consider these objections alongside the many others I know you have received and will make the correct decision and halt any current or future plans to develop the Brooklands Farm site.