

Alexander Gunyon

From: Hazel Lerigo [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 May 2024 17:20
To: Consultations
Subject: Canterbury District Local Plan to 2040 Consultation Feedback

Categories: Blue category

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To the Planning Policy Engagement Team,

I am writing to object to **Local Plan Policy W4 - Land at Brooklands Farm**. The reasons for my objection are as follows :-

- Farmland. Existing site is a working and productive farm. The pandemic exposed the risks to food supply chains caused by a lack of self sufficiency and as the UK has decreasing levels of food security it is impossible to support proposals that build on the site of a productive farm.
- Proposed Development Scale. The proposed development has 1,400 dwellings which may result in approximately an additional 3,000 residents which is more than 9% of the estimated existing 32,100 Whitstable resident population (ONS). This scale of proposed development is too great and will result in the population density, which is already high, increasing which brings other resource challenges and social issues.
- Protracted Disruption. This size of proposed development would cause a huge amount of disruption to existing residents over a protracted period of time. The existing residential roads are not suitable for the number of works vehicles that would need to use them.
- Infrastructure. Development will increase pressure on the existing poor local infrastructure such as roads, mains water, waste water and power. The town already suffers with a major sewage problem due to lack of funding in water treatment facilities and frequent water leaks which is now affecting the quality of life for a growing number of residents. The proposed population growth would generate more traffic and congestion which will impact adversely on air quality.
- Access to Health Services. The area already struggles with access to essential health services, the Chestfield and Estuary View GP practices are full and there are few if any NHS dentists for adults. A planning contribution does not guarantee the supply of more health facilities and such population growth will put existing services under unacceptable pressure.
- Green Space. The area has outstanding views, wildlife and biodiversity which will be lost forever if the proposed development progresses. Access to the existing green space is very important to local residents particularly in the summer when the town and seafront is besieged by tourists.
- Employment. Although the development proposes business space be included there are not many major employers in the area so there is concern about employment opportunities for this number of additional residents, perhaps there should be a greater focus longer term on skills training in agriculture and horticulture so local farms can be helped to survive and regenerate with expert help from colleges such as Hadlow.
- Community Facilities. While the provision of community facilities would be welcomed these should not duplicate what is provided close by to ensure the future viability of all such facilities. It might be more cost effective to enhance existing local facilities instead. The Council would need to give a commitment to directly or indirectly fund the operation and maintenance of new community

facilities so once the novelty of a new facility has worn off the structures would remain fit for purpose.

For your records as requested my name is Hazel Lerigo and I am a long term resident at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]