

Alexander Gunyon

From: Mary [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 May 2024 17:14
To: Consultations
Subject: Objection to new housing on Brooklands Farm Site in Chestfield, Whitstable, Kent
Categories: Blue category

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I am writing to object to planning permission being granted to the development of new housing on the Brooklands Farm site.

I'm aware you have already received a number of objections listing the difficulties that would threaten Chestfield's current residents if development of this site goes ahead. I reiterate those already mention, and would like to add the following points as weight to refusal of this planning permission:

Drainage - This problem is already rearing its head - and Chestfield Road has been closed on several occasions because flooding prevents safe passage. On one occasion people had to be rescued from their car! The water runs down from the neighbouring hills and the current open drains common to older properties in Chestfield are unable to contain the 'run off'. Additionally housing and hard surfaces is going to exacerbate this situation peculiar to Chestfield.

Poor repair of the roads not built for purpose - particularly those that comprise the main thoroughfares - the hazards and regular hold-ups that delay even emergency vehicles and public transport from Whitstable, Tankerston and Swalecliffe. New roads should be planned and financed before any additional housing is in place. Buses to and from Chestfield are very infrequent - they are not on the 'Triangle' route.. 2 hours between services rather than every 20 minutes in neighbouring Whitstable and Swalecliffe.

The massive growth of populations nearby - behind Grasmere Road; on Whitstable's Thanet Way, and Greenhill - already use Chestfield as a thoroughfare to and from work and school. New roads are not going to suddenly appear and clear our currently overcrowded network getting in and out of Whitstable - so another 1000+ neighbours is certainly not going to help that situation.

Thinking of schools - I understand that secondary school provision is stretched in our area and more children have to travel to Canterbury for secondary education. My goodness - our facilities are inadequate for the current numbers of young people, reaching their teens.

At present we have **Medical Services** planning for the current population - however they are often overwhelmed and the additional population is definitely going to put unwelcomed pressure on that provision. Please bear in mind that an additional population in Whitstable is also going to access emergency medicine - UMC unit in Whitstable closes at 8 pm... Additional populations will be needing to access emergency care from Canterbury (not sure of the emergency care status), Margate (already under pressure) and Ashford (A considerable distance away) or Medway - say no more. Dentists - the same dilemma ...

Sewage disposal - you already know that situation all too well. Clearly the current solution of increasing the distance out into the sea will not prove to be effective long term - tides always come in - as well as go out!

I may be wrong, but I believe the recent builds in the area are not being sold as quickly as envisaged at Thanet Way and the site behind Grassmere. Why plan to build more if the demand isn't there?

Presumably permissions would add value to the plot? That isn't the role for the council is it? That is about commerce and the risk taken by investors. This is a decision that needs to be taken based on the needs of the current population. **Isn't it sensible to resolve some, if not all of the current problems before exacerbating the issues by stressing services even further?** Please let common sense prevail - act on behalf of all your current constituents regardless of political affiliation - do not pass this request for planning housing expansion at this time.

kindest regards

Mary Wills