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16 May 2024

Dear Canterbury City Council

I object most strongly to any new housing developments in the Whitstable and Blean area.

Before any more houses are built please stop and look at the lack of infrastructure Whitstable and the Blean has. The sewage plants are not big enough now. Tankerton was once a blue flag beach, but it will take a lot of time before that happens again. It was barely coping before Whitstable Heights and the new building on the old Thanet Way so more housing will make it worse.

As someone that moved here before the New Thanet Way, I know the levels of traffic we use to get and I can assure you we are back to those levels if not greater as it can now take me 10-15 minutes to get out of the bottom of Goodwin Avenue which never used to happen. At peak times the traffic is backed up from roundabout to roundabout and a constant stream of vehicles.

Take the road from Whitstable to Graveny which recently collapsed due to increase in traffic that is the old Thanet Way waiting to happen. There is already subsidence. As for pot holes there's not a day goes by that new develops (I know that is KCC responsibility) But is it sheer volume of traffic.

I have noticed the stream of traffic that comes out of Chestfield first thing in the morning as parents are taking their children to school has increased dramatically.

We suffer from drought orders in the summer as there is not enough water. Where is the water going to come from. Where is the extra energy going to come from? We have a brilliant NHS provision here and I would hate to see it become the same as Faversham or Sittingbourne where everything is overrun. We do not have NHS dentist. And where is the hospitals for all these developments?

As long as I can remember the flooding in Chestfield is dreadful, the flooding is now becoming more and more on the Thanet way by Bodkin Farm as there is always a constant water leak down Radfall Rise.

We were promised no building developments between the new and the old Thanet Way if the New Thanet Way was built, well that was a lie, look what has happened.

PTO

Whitstable and Herne Bay do not need any more homes just so that people from outside the area can move here. We need proper council housing so that people from here can stay here. There is never any affordable housing for local people, and I wish that term would stop. CCC need to find the money to stop London boroughs from buying up our housing so they can remove their council tenants here to develop luxury flats in London. Changing our local characteristic.

With a falling birth rate year on year, we do not need any more homes. We have enough if those that are second homes or Airbnb's were to become available. There are quite a few properties that are standing empty that you have the power to compulsory order to either buy or make the owner do it up and use.

I will admit we do need a secondary school but not at the risk of more housing as there are enough students here now that could fill a new local secondary school. Which in turn would save the movement between Whitstable and Canterbury.

How many times have primary schools expanded their pan (amount of intake) on the promise of more pupils only to find those pupils never arrived. I can tell you a lot.

How many times are these developments promising this and that then never deliver once the houses are built. Every time.

With predictions of sea erosion and the Brook which comes from Brookland farm overflowing areas of Swaleciffe are already suffering from flooding at key times.

I had hoped a new council would see sense, stop, and take a hard look at the Canterbury district. But no, it's the same old thing developers growing their income at the expense of others.

Yours Sincerely

Gillian Michael

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