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From: Polly Mathewson [REDACTED]
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Categories: Blue category

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To whom it may concern

I am a local resident of Tankerton, Whitstable and would like to lodge my strong objection to the development of Brooklands Farm, South Street, Whitstable.

I strongly object to policies W3 and W4 (Brooklands Farm) of the draft Local Plan to 2040 for the following reasons:

- 1. Loss of an Area of High Landscape Value** with wonderful rural views of the distant Blean. CCC's Landscape Character Assessment 2020 recommended that CCC should reinforce the open rural setting south of Whitstable and resist development in the A299 New Thanet Way corridor.
- 2. This is not a sustainable place to build a large development**, from which (if its like the rest of south Chestfield) more people would be commuting to Canterbury than any other destination, almost all of them by car. It will also contribute to traffic congestion in the north Canterbury area.
- 3. Increased flood risk** downstream on the Swalecliffe Brook. At present heavy rain sits on the farmland before is slowly evaporates or trickles into the Brook. Vast areas of storage would be required to accommodate rainwater run-off from any urban development, but this could not be located close to the Brook because that area already floods when the river level rises over the riverbanks as happened in February.
- 4. Lack of health facilities.** Local residents now find they can't secure an appointment with a local GP, and if they need hospital treatment their three-day stay in Margate's hospital is in the hospital corridor due to lack of beds.
5. The local **sewage works cannot cope** with the increasing demand, and regularly releases untreated sewage into the sea, causing instances of serious illness for people on local beaches. The new outfall under construction will not solve this problem.
6. The proposed new junction linking the A299 to Chestfield Rd and South Street would create **huge increases in traffic, and therefore road safety problems, pollution and noise** in residential areas.
7. **Bad for our wildlife.** Seriously negative impact on Biodiversity. There is a lot of insect life associated with the cattle of Brooklands Farm, and consequently there are swallows, house martins, wagtails, numerous bats and no doubt much more that is less easy to see. There is also wildlife on the arable fields, e.g. skylarks

8. Adverse effect on the **Local Wildlife Site** at Convicts Wood. Building 1,400 houses nearby would cause it to be severely degraded and used as a children's recreation area and dog-walking route. Residents would use the area for dumping garden waste, as already happens in comparable areas along the Swalecliffe Brook. Residents' cats would kill off the local wildlife.

9. **Loss of "Best and most versatile"** agricultural land.

10. **CCC needs to recognise that housing developments affect the coastal towns much more severely than Canterbury.** Canterbury can expand to north, east, south and west. Whitstable can only expand southwards, as it is constrained by marshland to the west, and by Herne Bay to the east. What little farmland that remains within easy walking distance of Whitstable is needed for residents' recreation and well-being as well as to preserve the last vestiges of the natural setting of this tourist destination town. Therefore, the farmland between the Blean woodland and the existing urban edge of Whitstable should be given statutory protection.

11. For the reasons listed above, the proposals would be unsustainable and would contravene paragraphs 135c, 168, 173, 180a, 180b, 180d and 191b of the Government's National Planning Policy Framework.

In addition to these critical reasons, from a personal perspective I feel despair and rage at the endless encroachment of giant ugly housing estates in place of the green and biodiverse fields around this small town of Whitstable. Just as it is happening now right across the UK. Canterbury City Council could do differently?

Because sadly members of the current CCC planning department and shamefully and rightly the developers with their bursting wallets may one day be haunted by the deafening silence over cement and tarmac lands. Places where people sit in separate rooms attached to their digital devices. Land where once skylarks soared high above open fields in full voice, looking down upon a place of beauty and its detail of hedgerows and field margins of wildflowers, teeming with wildlife. We have to find different ways and different places if we really must keep building and building. We could learn a lot from other European countries with their shared smaller-footprint eco-built dwellings housing more families in places of real community, built in harmony with nature. Whitstable Heights is a monstrous Stepford Wives soul-less arrangement of individual houses and hard landscaped drives - the worst kind of architecture anyone could defecate out when swallowing up our precious and sacred earth. People need nature - for their wellbeing and their survival. People deserve better homes built with heart and in the right places, that do not destroy life and beauty we will never get back. And we need to respect the homes of other species we share this beautiful world with, who have equal rights and with whom we are in symbiotic dependency.

Please make the right decision and do not destroy everything and everywhere for future generations.

Polly Mathewson