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From: India Bowden [REDACTED]
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To: Consultations
Subject: I object to Policy W4 Brooklands Farm

Categories: Blue category

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed housing development on Brookland Farm. While I understand the need for housing, I believe that this specific project raises several significant concerns that must be carefully considered before any development can proceed.

First and foremost, Brookland Farm is a precious green field site, offering a vital sanctuary for wildlife and contributing to the overall ecological balance of our community. The destruction of this green space would result in the loss of biodiversity and disrupt the delicate ecosystem that currently thrives in the area. Preserving such natural habitats is essential for maintaining a sustainable environment and ensuring the well-being of future generations. It is an area that I have visited my entire life, my grandfather would take us as kids to visit the cows regularly. We would go for cycle rides with family and I used to go there often during covid to see them. This would be a loss of best and versatile agricultural land as well as loss of open-landscape, wildlife habitats and overall bad for bio-diversity.

Furthermore, the proposed development fails to adequately address the potential sewage issues that may arise. Brookland Farm is situated in an area that already faces challenges with sewage infrastructure. The increased strain on the existing system due to the additional housing units could lead to overflows, pollution of water sources, and a decline in water quality. It is essential to thoroughly evaluate and address these concerns to avoid any negative consequences for both residents and the environment. Sewage being dumped in the sea is a massive issue for our area already and adding more houses without resolving this is just going to exacerbate an already dire situation. Swalecliffe sewage works already are unable to cope, which has resulted in serious illness for some visitors to local beaches. This too impacts the town aspiring to be a tourist destination and that it is famous for seafood now grown in waters where sewage is being dumped.

Another critical concern is the significant impact the development would have on the local wildlife and their natural habitats.

Lastly, the proposed development on Brookland Farm raises the risk of increased flooding in the surrounding areas. The farm's green fields currently act as natural drainage, absorbing excess rainwater during heavy rainfall and reducing the likelihood of flooding. The replacement of these fields with impermeable surfaces such as buildings and roads would disrupt the natural drainage system and potentially exacerbate flooding issues, placing both existing and future residents at risk.

In conclusion, I strongly urge you to reconsider the proposed housing development on Brookland Farm. The preservation of this green field site, the mitigation of sewage issues, the protection of wildlife and their habitats, and the prevention of flooding should be of utmost importance. If this went ahead it would be permanent destruction of the rural nature of the valley of the Swalecliffe brook, which

provides the unofficial Green belt between urban Whitstable and The Blean. It is crucial to explore alternative options that prioritise sustainable development and do not compromise the well-being of our community and environment.

Thank you for considering these concerns and taking the appropriate action.

Kind regards,
India Bowden