



I OBJECT - South Street and Rayham Road development.

1 message

Brazier, Andrew

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To: "consultations@canterbury.gov.uk" <consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>

I **object** to the Brooklands Farm Development in Whitstable.

I am a resident of South Street Whitstable and have lived here for most of my life. Proposed plans will directly affect the land behind our home and the immediate surrounding area. Whilst I have no objection to providing housing to people in need, I do have objections when the plans impact the surrounding environment and will have a significant impact on the fragile infrastructure within the community, and a direct and negative impact on the current residents. My main concerns are the increase in population of a seaside town that is already beyond capacity and the wider, environmental issues that will only be exacerbated by this development. I regularly see Hares and Rabbits and the occasional rare bird on the land and area beyond my garden. Hedgehogs, slow worms, frogs, toads, and great crested newts are regular visitors to my garden. I fear that this and all wildlife will be seriously affected and damaged by the proposed development.

- **Biodiversity** - The reduction of species is not only a disaster for animals and plants, but for us too. By using the **Biodiversity Intactness Index** to look at the state of wildlife in the UK, the results are stark. The UK has some of the lowest biodiversity left in Europe and across the Western world. Countries such as Canada and Finland have 89.3% and 88.6% of their biodiversity intact, the UK only has 50.3%. (Source: The Natural History Museum)
- **Forestry** - As the development intends to encroach on, and will affect **Forestry Commission** land, I feel that it is important to highlight the UK's dire need to preserve forests and woodlands. The UK's **Forest Landscape Integrity Index** score is 1.65/10. This ranks it as 161 out of 172 countries globally!
- **Sewage** – our local water authority (Southern Water) is one of the worst offending in the country. The current infrastructure cannot cope with demand at present, if more demand is added, then greater damage to the coastal environment and the quality of bathing water will occur. The two tables below (from the governments website) highlight the issue and indicate how inadequately Southern Water are performing against the rest of the country. Sewage leaking into the sea from the Whitstable area is happening too often, it is disgusting, dangerous for public health, causes extreme, irreparable damage and is absolutely not acceptable!

EPA performance star ratings (out of 4) for the 9 water and sewerage companies 2016 to 2020

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total (out of 20 stars)
Wessex Water	4 stars	4 stars	3 stars	4 stars	4 stars	19 stars
Severn Trent Water	3 stars	4 stars	3 stars	4 stars	4 stars	18 stars
United Utilities	4 stars	4 stars	3 stars	3 stars	4 stars	18 stars
Yorkshire Water	3 stars	3 stars	2 stars	3 stars	4 stars	15 stars
Anglian Water	3 stars	3 stars	3 stars	2 stars	3 stars	14 stars
Northumbrian Water	2 stars	2 stars	4 stars	2 stars	4 stars	14 stars
Thames Water	2 stars	3 stars	3 stars	3 stars	3 stars	14 stars
Southern Water	3 stars	3 stars	2 stars	1 star	2 stars	11 stars
South West Water	2 stars	2 stars	2 stars	2 stars	2 stars	10 stars

Annual performance star rating after assessment of Southern Water's performance across all EPA metrics

Year	Overall EPA star rating (out of 4)	Star rating description
2011	2 stars	Below average company
2012	2 stars	Below average company
2013	1 star	Poor performing company
2014	2 stars	Below average company
2015	3 stars	Above average company
2016	3 stars	Good company
2017	3 stars	Good company
2018	2 stars	Company requires improvement
2019	1 star	Poor performing company
2020	2 stars	Company requires improvement
2021	1 star	Poor performing company

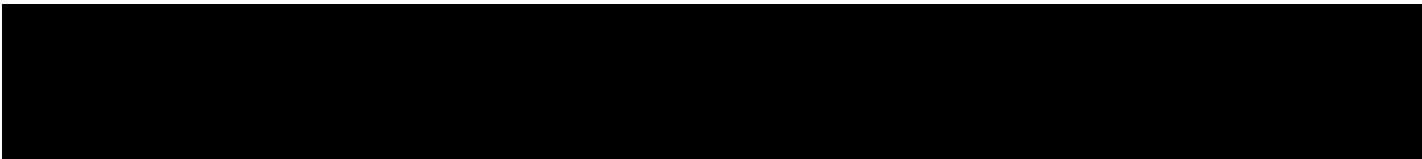
- During heavy rainfall, and significantly drier periods during the summer, (which is likely only to increase because of Global Warming), the current storm drain system in Whitstable has the inability to manage to the increased surface water, resulting in continual sewage dumps into the sea to prevent flooding into homes and roads. I can only implore you to be realistic as to how the further development of green, rural land will have such a huge negative impact on the drainage infrastructure. Leading Whitstable to be a town that can no longer safely enjoy it's coastline, leading to a reduction in tourism and irretrievable damage to our historical Oyster and fish industries.

- **Road Network and Infrastructure** – Additionally, amongst my many other concerns is the increased effect on our highway system. Whitstable was founded as a small coastal fishing town and although the population continues to grow, the public services and maintenance of the roads has not. At the top of Millstrood Road Whitstable, a main entry road into Whitstable town centre, there have been repeated roadworks due to damaged pipes, with traffic lights in place for the past two to three years at a minimum. With an additional 1300 homes at the South Street site alone and most homes having at least one car per family. The traffic delays and inconvenience to residents will only increase under the sheer weight of traffic. Also lending itself to increased air pollution, greater parking difficulties and a likely increase in Council or road tax to cover the work costs incurred.
- **Value for Money** – It is well known that property and development costs in Whitstable and the immediate, surrounding area are inflated. This may be because it is a desirable place to live but, this should also indicate to the council that better value for money could be achieved by purchasing land in a less desirable and ecologically important area. This will save money, money that I have paid in Council and stealth taxes all my life.

I grew up, went to school and am now raising my own family in Whitstable. I love living here and welcome visitors but, Whitstable simply cannot expand any further and remain the Whitstable that I, other residents, my family, and my friends all know and love. If this development were to go ahead, I fear Whitstable will not only lose its identity but, would become an increasingly, contributing factor to all the environmental issues (and more) that I have listed above. I want this correspondence to indicate to Canterbury City Council that I **ABSOLUTELY OBJECT** to this planned development, I feel that the local environment, nature, and current residents would be detrimentally and devastatingly affected if it were to go ahead. After all, we are the people who pay and, have been paying, ever increasing Council Tax bills on top of all other Taxes; therefore, our opinions should matter!

Regards,

Andy.



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