

As a concerned resident of Whitstable, I am writing to send a clear and unambiguous 'NO' to the proposed large-scale development and consequent destruction of the countryside at Brooklands Farm, South Street.

This open farmland currently sits within a harmonious vista of countryside with a horizon of gently rolling hills and it would be a brutal and perverse decision to give consent to the extensive over-development under consideration.

Currently, there are already other sites nearby in which large areas of previously open spaces are undergoing extensive development for new housing estates.

Whilst it's accepted that there is pressure for additional housing in the Canterbury catchment areas, it would be a gross abuse of authority to approve the obliteration of such a large acreage of countryside in such a compact area.

At the stroke of a pen, areas of beauty and recreation are being lost to all subsequent generations. Dog walkers are losing their off-road routes, pollution is increasing, roads are becoming increasingly congested, crime and antisocial behaviour are on the increase. Ancient woodland and natural habitats are being destroyed. The threat of flooding increases and the water authorities are already unable to process the sewage without resorting to effluent releases into the sea at Whitstable.

The current infrastructure in and around Whitstable is unable to flex at sufficient pace to accommodate the increasing built environment on such a large scale and pace. A longer term, balanced and holistic planning strategy is needed rather than the current short term and myopic, knee-jerk decision-making.

There is much suspicion that any consultation period being offered will be a sham and that Canterbury City Council have already decided to support the building of another massive housing estate at Brooklands Farm. It's my sincere hope that enough of its members will have the integrity and strength of character to draw upon their consciences to oppose this development.

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