

To whom it may concern,

We would like to express great concern regarding the plans for plots N21 and N24 in Whitstable. Having lived in and grown a family in Golden Hill since 1998 we have seen many changes. These are to be expected to some extent with the changes of time and so-called progress. However the popularity of Whitstable in recent years in particular, have contributed to the area having become spoilt and the infrastructure to become inadequate.

Over the last 27 years the green land around us has reduced significantly and the further planning of plots N21 & N24 will erase the last of any green land alongside the Thanet way in this area forever.

Unfortunately it appears that the proposal to include a traveller site now seems to be a shallow attempt to acknowledge historical lack of consideration for travellers by local authorities when approving multiple plans which are now complete.

The KCC definition of a traveller is "*a person with a nomadic habit of life who have temporarily stopped travelling due to factors like education, health or old age*". Therefore the need for a permanent site is questionable, if permanent accommodation is required, why are individuals not offered permanent housing to erase the potential for any temporary-like behaviours and social separation that a specific site will emanate. Where a permanent site is proposed, the adequate infrastructure should apply, this must be considered alongside the many hundreds of houses in the area that been built in recent years. The residents will be in need of doctors, dentist's hospitals and school places. Any significant number of travelling pitches lends itself to encouraging a community like situation, this is not integration and would sadly encourage a "*them and us*" like environment.

We would be interested to know who will be responsible for the ongoing maintenance and Health and safety of the proposed traveller pitches. Poorly located or managed sites may raise concerns about waste disposal, traffic congestion, or environmental degradation.

We are aware of the districts Landscape Character Assessment and Biodiversity Appraisal (2020) stating that the council should: "Improve the appearance of the transport corridors of the Old Thanet Way and A299 New Thanet Way. Conserve the open rural setting along corridors, resisting any unsympathetic linear development along corridors to help reinforce the open rural setting. This planning proposal directly opposes this.

The WHO (World health organisations-2021) *Green and Blue, New Evidence and Perspectives for Action Blue Spaces and Mental Health*, recognizes the substantial importance of the benefits related to green and blue spaces, and the critical need to support these spaces to protect and promote health and well-being, With few exceptions, most green space types also yield beneficial effects on perceived stress, restorative outcomes and severity of mental disorders. There is a need for a large

variety of types of green (and blue) spaces to be considered in urban planning and design, and these should be made available and accessible. We would like to state that, poor mental health has cost the NHS over £12 Billion pounds since 2024 (NHS England).

In addition to multiple builds since having lived in this area since 1998, planning permission has now also been granted at Benacre View for 220 houses and a park and ride. Erasing yet another not only green but wooded area. The addition of 70 houses and 21 Gypsy Traveller pitches will increase pollutant emissions emanating from on-site cars, caravans, trucks, goods and passenger service vehicles. The Old Thanet Way is already congested, with traffic queuing at points between the Tesco roundabout and Borstal Hill roundabout. This is without the planned 220 houses at Benacre View and the Park and Ride.

Residents collectively feel that this area has absorbed more than its fair share of planning over the years and implore you to decline this proposal.

Kind regards, Mr Kevin & Mrs Karen Earles.