

From: Leyla [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 May 2026 19:29
To: Consultations
Subject: Canterbury District Local Plan (Regulation 19) consultation

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Hello,

As a resident of Whitstable, I object to the scale of housing proposed for Whitstable, particularly within the South Whitstable Strategic Development Area.

The proposed level of growth is not supported by clear evidence that the necessary infrastructure can be delivered in advance of development. Whitstable, Tankerton and Swalecliffe already experience significant pressure on roads, healthcare, parking, rail services and utilities, especially during the summer months when visitor numbers increase substantially.

Of greatest concern is the lack of certainty regarding sewage, wastewater and water infrastructure. Whitstable's coastal economy and identity are fundamentally linked to the quality of its sea water, beaches and marine environment. In recent years there has already been widespread public concern regarding sewage discharges and coastal water quality along the north Kent coast. The Local Plan proposes a substantial increase in population but does not provide sufficient confidence that wastewater infrastructure will be upgraded in time to prevent further pressure on the marine environment.

The plan also fails to adequately address the cumulative impact of growth on coastal areas including Tankerton and Swalecliffe, where infrastructure is already stretched. During peak periods these areas experience severe parking pressure, increased traffic congestion and heavy use of seafront facilities and coastal open spaces. Additional housing on the scale proposed will intensify this pressure significantly.

Whitstable's economy depends heavily on tourism, hospitality, the harbour, local independent businesses and the attractiveness of its coastline. Any decline in bathing water quality, increased sewage incidents or deterioration of the coastal environment risks long-term damage to the town's reputation and economy.

I am also concerned that the plan contains extensive references to housing delivery and sustainable transport but comparatively little detail regarding:

- guaranteed sewage and wastewater infrastructure upgrades
- protection of coastal water quality
- resilience of water supply infrastructure
- long-term environmental monitoring
- investment in coastal protection and marine infrastructure
- mitigation for increased recreational pressure on the coastline.

The assumption that transport impacts can be resolved primarily through reduced car use and modal shift also appears unrealistic given existing congestion levels on routes through Whitstable, Tankerton and Swalecliffe, particularly during summer and holiday periods.

The plan therefore does not appear fully justified or effective in its current form. I request that housing allocations in Whitstable are reduced and/or phased so that infrastructure delivery, particularly wastewater, water supply and coastal environmental protections, is secured and independently verified before substantial development proceeds.

Thank you

Leyla Bower

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