

## Alexander Gunyon

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**From:** Caroline Parker [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 03 June 2024 14:40  
**To:** Consultations  
**Subject:** Comment on Canterbury City Council Draft Local Plan for houses near Blean Woods.

**Categories:** Green category

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Name: Caroline Parker

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District Resident

My comments are in relation to Chapters 1, 2, 5 and 6 of the Draft Local Plan and in particular to policy C12 of Chapter 2.

My objection to the Plan pertains to the proposed construction of a new town comprising 2000 residential units on prime agricultural terrain that is indispensable for sustaining local biodiversity and shares an ecological habitat with ancient woodlands of great natural significance. Before any consideration of paving over the rural countryside, brownfield sites within the District boundaries should be accorded priority for developments of this substantial scale and magnitude. In scenarios where that is not feasible on a large-scale basis, the Council ought to urgently petition for an exemption from housing targets mandated by the Central Government, grounded in the district's exceptional abundance of rich natural assets and heritage of ecological importance. By impulsively and hastily advancing the C12 proposal, the Council is acting in direct contravention of their own established policies, putting forth a feeble and inadequate case in a manner that patently indicates it has been hurriedly rushed through without adequate thinking, deliberation, and preparation.

The inevitable destruction of habitats supporting rare species such as the frequently sighted nightingale, due to urban sprawl would be contrary to sustainable development goals, some of which were adopted by Canterbury City Council only recently, emphasising the protection of biodiversity.

The space used for the road could be better utilized for community projects, and the charm of the area, which drives local tourism and business, could be damaged by the new road.

The repercussions of the school's relocation could be far-reaching, affecting not only the school's budget but also pupils' wellbeing, the local way of life including increased travel times and additional traffic.

Reconfiguring weight-restricted Rough Common Road to accommodate huge construction equipment and all the extra commuter traffic would negatively affect residents' tranquility, well-being, and property values.

The development will obstruct natural water absorption, causing runoff and threatening the local environment.