

Alexander Gunyon

From: Kathryn Melton [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 May 2024 09:45
To: Consultations
Subject: Chapter 2, Policy C12 University of Kent Development

Categories: Blue category

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Dear Local Plan Consultation Team at Canterbury City Council,

I am **Irene Robson** living at [REDACTED] and I am emailing you my response to the public consultation on the Canterbury District Draft Local Plan 2040 specifically regarding the section for the proposed University of Kent development: **Chapter 2 (Canterbury), Policy C12**

I am most concerned that our City Council is even considering the land north of the University of Kent to build 2000 houses. To even contemplate allowing the traffic to spill out onto the A290 at both the Bridle Path – 'The Old Salt Road' – opposite Kent College and at the top of the hill at Blean School is really quite staggering. My major points of concern that I want to express are the following:

- The bridle path opposite Kent College entrance is a public right of way and an established safe cycle path. It is an ancient and historical Old Roman 'Salt Road' leading all the way to Whitstable and Seasalter and must be preserved.
- The A290 was identified in 2022/23 as officially the most dangerous road in Kent hence Highways positioning all the new Danger signs for traffic along this road from Canterbury to Whitstable.
- The safety of everyone is paramount. Three schools currently line this road between Giles Lane and Tile Kiln Hill: Blean School, Kent College and St. Edmunds. As local residents we have been instrumental in a number of petitions for previous proposals affecting this section of road:
- The A290 is a narrow hazardous road with speeding traffic. Back in the 1980's a large and successful local residents petition was signed and submitted to the council objecting fiercely to the then proposal of the University building on the University land opposite Kent College with plan for traffic to exit from the bridle path onto the A290 opposite Kent College entrance. The residents won this campaign/ objection and the council agreed it would be too dangerous to the local community to approve such a proposal. Here we are now 40 years on and the traffic has multiplied probably 10 fold but the County Council it would appear are considering the University's uncaring ideas for its neighbours and putting all of Blean and rough Common residents and the 3 schools at risks with these proposed exits onto the A290 with an even greater additional volume of traffic.
- Indeed in the late 1970s we local residents petitioned for double white centre lines the length of the road to improve road safety particularly the stretch between the three schools. This was unaccepted by the council as the road is not wide enough to ensure vans, lorries and buses do not breach the double white lines which would cause them to break the law on every journey. Also from the mini roundabout at top of Rough Common road to Blean School all the houses on the left side of the road have a large and deep drainage ditch.

- With regard to the Tyler Hill residents I am very concerned how they will safely access their narrow country road passing Blean Church and coming out onto the A290 at Blean shops

I appreciate the University of Kent has financial and admin problems to overcome but surely this development of proposed 2,000 houses with the inevitable population and vehicle 'explosion', amenities and difficulties is not for Canterbury City Council to be involved with. The Council is presumably there to look after the welfare and safety needs of all its residents NOT to help the University put its 'house in order' and raise money.

I shall be very grateful if you can take my views into consideration.

Yours sincerely

Irene Robson

[REDACTED]

This email has been sent to you via my daughters email address as I am not on email. Thank you