

Alexander Gunyon

From: Megan Brackenborough [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 May 2024 21:36
To: Consultations
Subject: Draft Canterbury District Local Plan comments

Categories: Blue category

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Dear Sir or Madam,

We would like to highlight our concerns specifically around the changes proposed in the Draft Local Plan impacting on Old Park and Chequers Wood. Please see comments below:

Chapter 1: Spatial Strategy for the District

On page 13, strengthen the wording in paragraph 10 of Policy SS1 (Environmental Strategy for the District) so it reads:

The council will continue to work with partners to explore the promotion of a Stour Valley Regional Park, to support the extension and improved connectivity of the Blean Woodland Complex and to protect and improve the entirety of the Old Park and Chequers Wood habitat. The area of OPCW which is currently outside the SSSI boundaries should be designated as a protected Public Open Space.'

Chapter 2: Canterbury

On page 32, include a reference to Old Park & Chequers Wood in paragraph 7 of Policy C5 (Canterbury Urban Area) so it reads:

The city's network of open spaces and green infrastructure will be protected and enhanced. A key opportunity to do this will arise with the sale of the MoD landholdings at Old Park & Chequers Wood.

Chapter 6: District-wide Strategic Policies

Include a new policy in Chapter 6 focussing on the Old Park & Chequers Wood reading:

We urge the introduction of a new policy on the Old Park and Chequers Wood and Stodmarsh complex, together with the adjacent open spaces. These two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are virtually contiguous and offer huge opportunities to restore, enhance, expand and connect the mosaic of habitats that characterise this stretch of the Stour Valley. The result would be comparable to the landscape-scale nature recovery proposals outlined in Policy DS23 on the Blean Wood complex.

Kind regards,

Megan and Josh Murphy - Canterbury residents

Sent from my iPhone