



Draft Canterbury District Local Plan to 2045

1 message

Keith Rishworth

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To: 

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Thank you for your email of 24th October 2022, asking for comments on this draft. I have looked at the document on-line, and also listened to our council leader introducing it at the Canterbury Forum meeting on 7th November.

The whole thing appears to me to be totally detached from the actual reality we experience in Canterbury.

It makes no sense at all to plan enormous tracts of new housing in the fields around the city, when the local infrastructure is already overwhelmed. In the first place, planning needs to concentrate on the infrastructure that urgently needs up-grading for the existing population. In particular, we are already suffering from congested roads with associated air pollution, and water pollution of the rivers, lakes, and coastline.

Following on from that, before allocating more land for housing and development, we need convincing plans for the infrastructure that would be needed for it.

The traffic problem results from having only a partial inner ring road, and no outer ring road. It is delusionary to write about using the inner ring road for walking and cycling, when we lack an alternative for motor traffic. The proposed "Eastern Movement Corridor" takes a meandering route through proposed housing developments, too remote for internal city movements, and too indirect to be a proper bypass for through traffic. Nothing in the current plans amounts to a ring road that would take away traffic from the city centre.

The existing sewage treatment facilities are so inadequate that developments within Canterbury have had to be halted. Current proposals for individual developments to retain wastewater in tanks, for removal by road tankers to unknown destinations, are scarcely credible or "sustainable", even in the short term. Further proposals for every future development to have its own sewage works are no more credible: even if multiple such works were acceptable close to housing, there would still be inorganic phosphates and nitrates discharged into the waterways, and possibly the aquifer too.

At this stage we need definite and robust planning for all necessary infrastructure, agreed with all relevant authorities and utilities, before moving on to ideas about new housing estates. Promises of future provision of roads etc. by developers are not enough. Broad statements of availability by utility suppliers are not enough.

This Draft Plan is epitomised by its own statement that "the council will work with its partners to ensure necessary infrastructure". In my opinion that does not amount to any sort of meaningful plan at all.

J.K. Rishworth

