

CANTERBURY DISTRICT DRAFT LOCAL PLAN TO 2045 WINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSE

Though Wingham falls within the Dover District, Wingham Parish Council is taking this opportunity to respond to the Canterbury District Draft Local Plan as potential development in neighbouring parishes within the Canterbury district will have a significant impact on the parish, particularly from the perspective of traffic and transport.

Wingham Parish Council's response refers to the transport impact of three of the Draft Local Plan Policies:

1. **Policy R1, Land at Cooting Farm**
2. **Policy R14, Littlebourne**
3. **Policy R20 Aylesham South (Womanswold)**

Wingham is a pinch point for traffic coming from the A2 (via the B2046 Adisham Road), A256 and A257 and suffers significant congestion daily especially at peak times. The Parish is and will continue to be directly affected by developments in neighbouring settlements in both the Dover and Canterbury districts, especially in Aylesham, Preston, Ash, Adisham and Littlebourne. Collaboration between the two District Councils is therefore essential to ensure plans for both districts adequately assess the impact of all the proposed land for developments. It is unclear to Wingham Parish Council whether such collaboration actually took place during the drafting of the Canterbury District Draft Local Plan.

The Council's primary concern relates to the provision of adequate traffic impact assessments and travel plans *before* considering land suitable for new developments which should help inform the draft Plan based on the collection of accurate data. The Council recognises that the Canterbury Draft Local Plan states in Policy DS15 that development proposals should be accompanied by a transport statement/assessment or travel plan and this will be judged on a case by case basis. We also note the paragraph indicating the reasons why proposals will be refused, including "(d) *The residual cumulative impacts on the road network would be severe*".

The Council would like to know how cumulative impacts will be assessed and how CCC would measure a 'severe' impact. Councillors consider that Traffic Assessments and Travel Plans at the planning stage is too late and are very concerned that residential developments will be approved where cumulative highways issues have not been fully considered with the resulting impact this would have on Wingham village.

This situation has already arisen in the Dover District from the significant residential development occurring in Aylesham. Given the piecemeal manner in which Aylesham has been developed, the Council's view is that the cumulative impact of traffic on Wingham has never been fully, or adequately, assessed.

Of particular concern is the junction of the B2046 (Adisham Road) and the A257 in Wingham, otherwise known as Red Lion Corner. This junction has for some time been unable to cope with traffic volume or LGV movements. Incidents relating to LGVs in this area are numerous and well documented and include the striking of listed buildings and inadequate width to prevent vehicles mounting the pavements when passing other vehicles. In August 2020 the approach to Red Lion Corner and LGV incidents made national news. The pressure on this junction would be exacerbated by the proposed 'Garden Community' development of 3200 dwellings on Land at Cooting Farm (R1) and the proposed development at Womanswold (R20).

The proposed development in Littlebourne on Land at The Hill (R14) is the same site where a similar development proposal was refused by CCC in September 2021 on 8 different counts, one of which was related to the lack of an adequate traffic assessment. Traffic movements resulting from the development of 350 dwellings at sites R15 and R16 will have a significant impact on the A257 running from Canterbury, through Wingham, to Thanet.

Councillors do not consider that the severity of the impact from the development of areas outside Wingham has been adequately considered to date and considers that the Canterbury Draft District Local Plan also does not adequately define how cumulative traffic impacts will be assessed. This will have severe safety implications in Wingham village if not addressed.

Signed by

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K L Coltham, Wingham Parish Council Clerk
Signed on behalf of Wingham Parish Council
20.12.2022