

# Harbledown and Rough Common Parish Council

Serving Harbledown, Rough Common and Upper Harbledown

12th January 2023

Dear Canterbury City Council,

This letter is the response from the Harbledown and Rough Common Parish Council to the Canterbury City Draft Local Plan consultation.

**The parish council strongly oppose Policy SS4, the proposed re-routing of all traffic to and from the northern half of the city, through an upgraded Rough Common Road.**

The parish council are dismayed by the Draft Local Plan with its implications of devastating damage to the village of Rough Common but with no detail to inform residents about the plan and to allow a proper response. It is the opinion of the parish council that the plan is not fit for purpose. However, as the plan has been published and is out for consultation, this is what we have gleaned and our opinion of that information:

To serve the northern half of the city, the sketchy plan shows a non-existent "bypass" from Whitstable Road via the University to link with the "Eastern Bypass" at Sturry. The small print in the Draft Plan says that at some unspecified time a new road will be built to complete the outer "ring road". There is no detail about what changes will be made to an "upgraded Rough Common Road" but to cater for the high volumes of traffic throughout the day and far into the night, the "upgrades" could only come from significant road widening and a ban on any parking on the road. This would change the status of this road to a major through-route, making it unsuitable for pedestrians walking alongside on the pavements and the incessant noise and pollution intolerable for the many residents whose properties are on Rough Common Road.

Rough Common is home to over 1,000 people. It is unfair and unjustifiable for Canterbury City Council to destroy the character of our village by turning it into a major access route for traffic coming in and going out of the city. Rough Common Road is a residential road and currently a major walking route for children from Rough Common attending Blean school and far from encouraging local residents to walk and cycle within this "zone" as the plan envisages, a faster road will have completely the opposite effect as it is more

likely to deter residents and children from walking and especially cycling rather than encourage them.

The Plan also refers to new car parks and park-and-ride sites being built on the outskirts. Again, there is no detail of where these park and ride sites could be situated. Harbledown and Rough Common Parish Council spent years fighting plans for a Park and Ride site at Harbledown and the plan was squashed in 2014. Why does Canterbury City Council raise the prospect of more Park and Ride sites when they have a practical example of how unsuitable they can be following the closure of the Sturry site in June 2022 to save the City Council £360,000 clearly demonstrates?

The parish council oppose the City Council's traffic plans to divide Canterbury into five separate zones. Residents in one zone would not be able to use existing roads to travel to any other zone (without being fined) and would be forced to go via an "upgraded Rough Common Road". Residents' of the parish will be expected to walk, cycle or use a bus everywhere. That may suit some if they have the time and are fit and able to walk or cycle or if there is a convenient, regular and reliable bus service, there isn't at the moment, but if not and you want to use your car to visit any facility in another zone such as a supermarket, doctor's surgery, pharmacy, hospital, school, college, leisure facility etc you will have to use an "upgraded Rough Common Road" and drive away from the city to come back in to a different zone. Besides being hugely costly, unworkable and environmentally damaging, these draconian plans would make life unbearable for the people of Canterbury, but the residents of **Rough Common would come off worst of all.**

The parish council see the Draft Local Plan as a huge threat to the lives of the people of the parish and will take all actions available to stop these plans coming to fruition.



**Emma Richardson - Chairman**

**Harbledown and Rough Common Parish Council.**

[www.harbledown-pc.gov.uk](http://www.harbledown-pc.gov.uk)