



CCC Consultations <consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>

Local Plan 2045 - Objection

1 message

Simon Triggs [REDACTED]

11 January 2023 at 09:58

To: "consultations@canterbury.gov.uk" <consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>

Dear Sir/Madam

As a resident of Canterbury and in particular the village of Rough Common, I strongly object to elements of the recently published draft local plan and in particular the Spatial Strategy for the District 2045.

Whilst I have objections to the general local plan in terms of the continued amount of planned future housing for the area and HMO's and in particular student accommodation which continues to impact on our area's due to the noise and anti-social behaviour that they bring. My main objection to the Local Plan however is in relation to Policy SS4; Movement and Transportation Strategy for the District which I believe to be section 4.

Policy SS4; Movement and Transportation Strategy - OBJECTION

Rough Common Road has seen vastly increased traffic since we moved in 17 years ago and has lost some of the village feel that first attracted us to the area. It deserves a by-pass to reduce the traffic flow and if not then traffic calming measures similar to St Dunstons and the village of Wingham where 20 mph limits have been enforced.

Therefore the proposed use of Rough Common as part of the Cities 'Outer Ring Road' is staggeringly out of line with the areas requirements.

Reasons for my Objection to Rough Common being used as part of the Outer Ring Road as stated in the Transport Topic Paper.

1. Air Pollution. In the local plan sections 6.39 and 6.40 state

6.39 Poor air quality can have damaging effects on public health and the council continues to prioritise improving air quality in the district, including at the designated Air Quality Management Areas.

6.40 It is essential that new development does not contribute to any further deterioration in air quality and emissions should be assessed and mitigation identified as part of new developments.

How can the increased traffic flow that the outer ring road will undoubtedly bring, reduce air pollution in a residential area, where all houses are close to the road & the pavements get used by school children (during rush hour where pollution will be far greater) on their walk to Blean school and other nearby schools? The planned use of Rough Common Road as part of the Outer Ring Road therefore goes against these Councils statements

2. Pavements Safety Issue.

The plan states that Rough Common Road will be upgraded and widened to accommodate the increased traffic flow including potentially larger lorries (which are currently banned). To do this the current pathways will be reduced in width and grass verges removed. This means that the increased traffic will be closer to the narrower pavements, increasing safety concerns with little children walking on these paths regularly to and from school.

3. Road Safety

Half way down Rough Common Road the road narrows on the corner (outside St Gabriels Chapel). This corner is a safety issue with west bound cars sometimes using the pathway, to avoid the east bound traffic that cut the corner and drive over the central white line. There is also no way of this road being widened as there is no grass verge. The addition of lorries will only exacerbate this, with them not being able to keep to their lanes on this corner - a serious worry for those on the pavement at the time.

4. Parking

Currently due to the increase in allowed HMO's/Housing in the area, there is a need for parking on the main road. This impacts traffic flow at peak times and leads to congestion. The current plans for housing development in the area by the council will only increase this. The council may have plans to stop cars from being allowed to park on Rough Common Road, but where will these cars go? If parking is to be allowed then the flow of traffic will be seriously hindered with a further impact to pollution and simply moving the traffic congestion from the city centre to Rough Common

5. Driveways

For a ring road to work, there must be continual easy flow of traffic. However, Rough Common Road is a residential area and as such has houses and drive ways all along it. Increased traffic flow has over the years meant that it's not easy to get onto and off of peoples driveways. This will undoubtedly lead to safety issues as with more traffic it will lead to residents having to chance pulling off of their drive, or otherwise they will be there for a considerable time. Pulling on to a drive, if on the other side of the road, will lead to further congestion as the traffic backs up behind the waiting car, and could become a further danger.

Some vehicles, due to their drives, have to reverse onto the road. This is a serious issue on what is planned to be a major Canterbury road. Would you expect vehicles to reverse onto Rhiems Way without accidents being caused?

Each driveway is in effect a turning off or onto a main road. Who would devise a Ring Road with so many turnings due to adverse safety concerns and congestion caused.

6. Delivery Drivers/Refuse

Further delays to traffic will be seen with delivery drivers the residential area - both parcels and home grocery shopping where the delivery vans regularly park on the road whilst unloading.

What will happen on bin collection day? As the council rubbish collection vans will cause serious delays for the increased traffic flow.

7. Impact on Houses

Houses along Rough Common Road are close to the road, some very close. The impact of increased traffic both volume and size of vehicles will have a adverse impact on these houses and potentially lead to regular repairs due to the increased vibration caused from the volume of traffic.

8. Noise Pollution

Rough Common would be impacted from increased traffic and therefore the incessant noise intolerable.

9. Speeding/Safety

The road already suffers from speeding motorists and I've been overtaken many times on the road. This will only get worse with more motorists using the road and leading to the safety concerns already mentioned.

10. Outer Ring Road Bypass.

The aim of the outer ring road is to allow for traffic to bypass the city. However it simply puts the problem into another area - Rough Common. For the Bypass to work it need to 'Bypass' an area and not just put it somewhere else and certainly not THROUGH the middle of the residential area of Rough Common.

The above comments relate to my serious concerns on the impact and workability of the outer ring road scheme going through Rough Common, which simply would be catastrophic for the residents within this community. Other comments concerning the local draft plan are;

The proposed zoning area would enforce much longer journeys with no major supermarkets, medical or leisure facilities in our current zone. Whilst I appreciate school traffic should be minimised through use of school buses, these only run at school start and end times. What happens if your child is required to stay late at school for educational or sporting fixtures/clubs? Logistical planning for those with kids at school is difficult and those with outside sports interests (Athletics at Canterbury Academy, Hockey at Polo Farm etc) would incur far greater journeys or costs. As a result sports participation especially amongst younger residents would I fear seriously reduce from a time taken to attend and potential cost of extra fuel/zoning charge perspective.

The proposed zoning area & removal of parking with the city would also impact the town centre and businesses within. However if this is to go ahead then there needs to be provision for a completely NEW Outer Ring Road, not just use current residential areas as they are a cheaper alternative to much needed infrastructure investment within the City.

We hope your take note of the above comments and abandon the Rough Common element of the Outer Ring proposal.

Regards

Simon Triggs

