



CCC Consultations <consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>

Draft Cant. district Local Plan 2020-2045

1 message

Bill Watson

8 January 2023 at 14:53

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

Cc: [REDACTED]

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am writing in relation to the Plan mentioned above.

As a long-time resident of Rough Common (RC) I have strong objections to the proposal relating to the upgrading of Rough Common Road. For some years the increased traffic on this road has been of concern to residents of RC. Elderly residents, and school children walking to and from school who use the road have been worried and disturbed by the volume of traffic along the road, both in terms of the speed at which much of the traffic proceeds - ignoring speed limits - the number of HGVs that use the road running dangerously close to kerbs and the volume of noise that the increased traffic has generated.

The plan to upgrade the road will do nothing to alleviate the concerns of residents. On the contrary it will add to the stress and anxiety that many of them currently feel. Far from creating environmental conditions that will enhance the mental and physical health of residents, a widened road, and a parking ban - parking on the road is currently one of the few features along the road that does slow traffic down - the plan will be, without qualification, detrimental to the welfare of all RC residents.

The desire of the Council as expressed in the plan, to take action to improve traffic flows, reduce the amount of traffic congestion and improve connectivity is much to be welcomed, but the proposals for RC in particular do not achieve this. On the contrary they add to existing problems.

As you are no doubt aware the cutting of the bus service through RC has already caused considerable concern to inhabitants, and has led to residents who would formerly have used the bus to take their cars into town. This has been a step backwards in terms of a sensible policy to persuade Canterbury residents to use public transport services. The solutions that RC residents have proposed in relation to providing some sort of public service - including a once every hour re-routing of the bus station-university service through RC - have been studiously ignored and have not been given the attention they deserved. The current district proposal threatens to make life in RC intolerable for many of the residents, in particular the elderly and those with small children.

As far as I can see, the plan conspicuously fails to describe in detail how the Council will take practical steps to improve public transport and promote greater use of it. More thought should be given to greater subsidy of bus services - considerably cheaper than road construction and road maintenance projects - providing mini-bus services, establishing a taxi voucher system for elderly residents, encouraging car-sharing, reducing urban traffic speeds and creating a system for limiting car access to central areas that do NOT involve zoning, for example designating days for use of odd/even licence plate vehicles - something commonly employed in many traffic congested cities in the world.

In short there should be less road construction and more measures to reduce the use of private traffic.

Let me conclude by reiterating my strong objection to the specific proposals concerning RC. In my opinion, and that of all the residents of RC I have talked to about them, these proposals will lead to a very significant decline in the quality of life of Rough Common residents.

Yours sincerely,

Emeritus Professor,
C W Watson,

