



CCC Consultations <consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>

Proposed Local Plan

1 message

Sarah Whittall

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

I am writing with regard to my concern about the proposed local plan, in particular its size and negative impact on the existing community. In the light of Mr Gove's recent statement that 'Local Authorities would not be expected to build developments that would lead to a significant change of character' and his support for 'gentle densities', I believe there is scope for a significant rethink,

WHAT IS THE PLAN AIMED AT SOLVING?

The housing crisis? No real starter homes are being built, no real affordable housing, just expensive homes with "help to buy" schemes which are extremely dubious.

Who are these homes destined for? People commuting to London to work? There are few local jobs which would pay enough to finance the purchase of these houses.

Although I am not against new communities they should not be established at the expense of existing ones which I think is the case for the following reasons:

THE ENVIRONMENT

Sewage is a major problem in the area already. Pollution in the rivers and sea is reaching unsustainable levels. Additional people in large numbers would worsen this situation.

In many cases agricultural land will be built on and lost forever.

The proposed developments are not carbon neutral which is preposterous in the current climate crisis.

Canterbury is a heritage site which has already expanded significantly in recent years. More development on random surrounding areas will ruin unique views to say nothing of swallowing up green spaces which are so valuable to both the climate and the community.

TRANSPORT and INFRASTRUCTURE

More development will exacerbate the already difficult transport system. Car journeys will multiply without doubt leading to bottlenecks and more pollution.

A new bypass will carve up the countryside and will not solve the problem of journeys in and out of the city on roads which are not fit for purpose.

There is no plan for public transport infrastructure.

Nothing has been done to provide safe cycle routes so far so what hope for the future?

There are already problems with water shortages with no reservoir in sight for forty years!

The new hospital has been shelved, the surgeries and schools are at maximum capacity.

Although I realise that a certain amount of funding for infrastructure may come from developers, the question is when will it be available? Certainly not before many of the houses are effectively sold and what happens in the meantime?

The current plan seems to me to be a honeypot for developers and landowners but does not serve the interests of the local community. I believe that the proposed local construction should be considerably reduced and the present environmental problems sorted out before more negative impact compounds the situation.

Sarah Whittall

Sent from my iPad