



Response to Canterbury Local Plan Consultation

2 messages

Liam Godden [REDACTED]

10 January 2023 at 14:46

To: consultations@canterbury.gov.uk
[REDACTED]

To Whom it may concern

I am a lifelong resident of Rough Common who has recently moved to [REDACTED] Canterbury and would like to voice my concerns regarding the proposed new road building in Harbledown and Rough Common which is alluded to in the draft Canterbury local plan. I would like to venture some possible causes to issues currently faced by Canterbury which the road building mentioned in the local plan is allegedly intended to address.

The local plan directly alludes to making the city centre environment more pleasant. I am at this stage very sceptical of the council's intentions with the Local plan and believe that in actuality it is an excuse to free up land for property development at the expense of the areas surrounding Canterbury and the people and wildlife living here.

In my experience as a long-term resident, the issues faced by Canterbury could be attributed to a combination of the following points and not the need for more roads. I believe that contrary to the local plan, increasing the density of roads in a place that already has a lot of them will adversely affect the quality of life for existing residents and increase the rate of loss of wildlife.

The rapid and unsustainable growth of the two major universities in Canterbury, in my opinion, is a major contributor to the issues Canterbury faces, the university student population has doubled in the past 10 years and along with its major property developments to house students in the city centre, changing Canterbury irrevocably in the process and displacing local people. It is my feeling that the rate of growth of the universities is too much for Canterbury to handle and is leading to poor quality and inappropriate development in the city centre.

Developments such as increased moped and motorbike traffic, e-bike and e-scooters the latter often illegal and unpoliced. Prevalence of delivery services such as Deliveroo causing more traffic and dangerous driving in the city centre as employees rush around to fill their quotas on zero-hour contracts.

Poorly scheduled road works or unscheduled road maintenance in the city. A prime example of this is the unscheduled road works at Glen Iris Avenue due to issues arising from a poorly managed development site. Issues such as these highlight to me that the council cannot manage what it has let alone creating the space for more development. As I understand it the council's planning department has been slashed causing issues such as this to occur due to lack of oversight. It is my feeling that when I encounter significant road traffic in Canterbury it is most likely due to roadworks and other road maintenance, not the lack of roads.

Reduction in bus services eg the Rough Common bus service has recently been reduced, this the very area that an additional bypass/ road expansion is planned and directly contrary to what I interpret the local plan as intended to address.

Poorly designed and disjointed cycle lanes requiring cyclists to dismount or ride over dangerous and busy roundabouts. Fixing the cycle lanes shouldn't require anything as extreme as creating new ring roads and could be as simple as assigning someone who actually has experience cycling in Canterbury to the design process.

Forced unreasonable housing targets

In my opinion creating more housing estates around Canterbury to bring in more people who will be commuting into Canterbury for work and school will just add to the traffic burden. I am very cynical that additional housing will be intended to make housing more accessible to local people instead intended to bring in more people from outside the area such as housing for London boroughs to utilise in outsourcing social housing tenants, as has been done recently

in Canterbury. In addition, housing close to the university of Kent will surely be snapped up by greedy student landlords aiming to squeeze in as many students as possible.

The majority of schools, health care centres and jobs are within the Canterbury urban area so creating significantly more housing directly outside Canterbury facilitated by these proposed roads will only contribute to traffic misery for residents and degradation of the quality of life here.

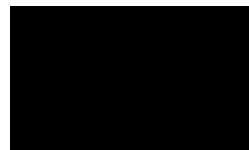
Wildlife

New roads and housing development sites will potentially be massively damaging to the wildlife habitat of Blean Woods and RSPB nature reserve depending on where the roads are placed relative to the woodland. The Rough Common and Harbledown area is already criss-crossed with busy roads causing problems for the movement of wildlife, noise and light pollution which is damaging to wildlife including birds, hedgehogs, bats and amphibians. I would remind the council that wildlife in the UK is in terminal decline and we are in the midst of a climate crisis, this new road building proposal feels very out of step with our current reality. Any proposal such as this adds to the anxiety that the public already feels, and therefore should be carefully considered and not suggested at random as I feel is currently the case with the Local Plan and we saw recently with Dukes Meadow.

In summary, in its current state it is my view that the local plan is a means of spreading urbanisation outside of the centre of Canterbury and creating profits for developers and land owners. I would like to see the council stand up for the people rather than the interests of the privileged few and put words into action when protecting the environment and wildlife.

Many Thanks

Liam Godden



Ben Fitter-Harding

To: Liam Godden

Cc: consultations@canterbury.gov.uk,

10 January 2023 at 17:16

Dear Liam,

Thank you for taking the time to respond to the consultation; I appreciate your comments. Should you have any questions for me personally please do not hesitate to contact me.

All the best,

Ben

[Quoted text hidden]

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Ben Fitter-Harding

Leader

Conservative Councillor for Chestfield Ward

Canterbury City Council

