

Upper Harbledown

To Whom it may concern

Travelling through the centre of Canterbury is difficult sometimes, so I appreciate what Canterbury council is trying to achieve but I am disappointed and surprised at the future radical and to my mind ill-considered proposals for Canterbury City Centre.

I wonder, for a start, that rather than build more houses, you pause the building programme whilst you sort out the infrastructure.

I am particularly concerned, living in Upper Harbledown. You suggest residents in this area will use their local facilities rather than the amenities in other parts of the city.

What might these be on Harbledown? We have the garage on the motorway and the only decent village shop in Blean, but it isn't quite a supermarket!

You say it will encourage walking and cycling. We are in our 80s so the mind boggles at the thought of our carrying our weekly shop on our bikes or our shoulders! Online shopping is an option but we prefer to shop in person.

Our GP surgeries are on the other side of town. Do you wish us to cycle and walk there too?

We are not lazy people!

And what of the residents in Rough Common whose lives will be turned upside down by what will become a major artery for traffic, not to mention the upheaval caused by the building of this road..

As for the 'Amazing' public transport system you mention? I haven't noticed it in this part of Canterbury. We are very grateful for the buses we do have but we have had to fight for every bus that passes through the village.

Rather than creating this vibrant, accessible town centre you speak of, I fear this will empty the city centre completely. Who is going to bother with the palaver of the complicate travel arrangements just to get a coffee at the wonderful but far too may coffee shops, or use the ever decreasing number of retail shops.

When you talk of digital connectivity, what exactly do you mean and how is this going to enhance our city centre?

The overall plan and accompanying sub plots are long and complicated and do not make easy reading. Perhaps the vision itself needs re-thinking in its entirety with input from the areas most negatively impacted.

Regards

■ J C White