



## CANTERBURY COUNCIL'S DRAFT LOCAL PLAN

1 message

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

13 January 2023 at 22:19

Dear Sirs,

Having looked at the [canterbury.gov.uk](http://canterbury.gov.uk) website, I considered it better to email you my thoughts on the City Council's, Local Plan-2045. All that can be retrieved from the website spreadsheet is up until a Mr Doe and for the year 2020. Was the spreadsheet designed for the average citizen?

The so-called "Canterbury Vision" reads well, but has a number of flaws, which one expects would have been noted and carefully considered by The Leader of the City Council (Mr BFH) and his Committee before finalising their "vision" for presentation to the citizens who will be most and worst affected. I will try to make this as brief as possible.

I, at the outset, ask that my email be acknowledged, as having been read and handed to the responsible committee member for due attention.

My main concerns are for the citizens both of Canterbury and of Rough Common:

1. Has consideration been given to the inconvenience to daily life that instituting 5 "zones" in the centre will cause to commuters, the general public, housewives **and the elderly** who happen to live in the "wrong" zone, e.g. adjacent to the Railway Station, Doctor's Surgery, or Store / Supermarket? Who, pray, will assist the elderly with their shopping bags on a daily / regular basis?

2. Mr BFH (The Council Leader) talks about his "vision", which imposes walking, cycling and taking public transport on people **including the elderly** to go about their daily routine. He, indeed, even suggests that they should change their supermarket to adapt to his "vision"!

3. On your website "Canterbury District Local Plan to 2045", under Policy SS3 - 6, Local Service Centres, Harbledown and Rough Common are included in the strategy "for development which protects the rural character of these settlements". How on earth does Mr BFH consider bulldozing a major (A2) filter road right through the village "protects the character of Rough Common"?

Did he and ALL of his committee visit Rough Common (walking, cycling or on public transport) to see their proposed destruction of the village. Would any one of them "invest" in purchasing a home in Rough Common before the proposed road works, through the road construction works and to ultimately suffer (by 2045 and beyond) the constant heavy traffic through their once peaceful village?

4. The link/filter major trunk road through Rough Common is apparently designed (in Mr BFH's "vision") to reach the Whitstable Road.....then what?

There is much more I can add, but will not as I consider the above points are sufficient to demonstrate that the City Council's Draft Plan is in fact, nothing more than a Daft Plan.

On a separate and important, relevant matter, Mr BFH indicated that Ghent was chosen as a model for the Council's hair-brained 5-zone plan. One wonders by whom, why and at what cost to the Council's coffers. Further, which other cities were chosen for comparisons.

GHENT: Is the 3rd largest city in Belgium with a population of ca. 270,000, covering 160 sq. km.

It has 5 railway stations and a network of trams and buses.

CANTERBURY: Is a small city by comparison, with a population of 50,000(?), covering an area of 24 sq. km. It has 2 railway stations. NO comments are required on its so-called bus service.

The only common factor is that both are university cities.

The Council correctly identifies and confirms rush hour congestion in the city centre caused by traffic approaching the city from the West (M25 Southbound and the A2) en route and via the A28 to Margate and Ramsgate; via the A2 to Dover; and via the A28 to Ashford. Likewise, Westbound via the A2, A257 and A28.

The logical solution would therefore be to adopt the R4 Ghent Ringway on the outskirts of Ghent connecting the outlying villages with each, also diverting traffic approaching the city, NOT punishing residents by prohibiting them from driving between zones arbitrarily created by the Council!

I await your acknowledgement that this email has been received, read and forwarded to the responsible officer.

Donald Mascarenhas