



CCC Consultations <consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>

Local PPlan Consultation

1 message

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

13 January 2023 at 18:06

Re: Canterbury Area Draft Local Plan 2020-2045. Policy C6 Land at Merton Park.

Dear Policy and Strategy Team

I am a Canterbury resident and I write to express my strong opposition to the proposed development of the land identified as 'Merton Park'.

Most of this land is high-grade agricultural land – arable fields and orchards – the loss of which would be detrimental in an era of climate change and likely food shortages.

Further, the development of this land would lead to a serious loss of amenity to the residents of Canterbury, for whom the right to wander in beautiful countryside within walking distance of the city centre is both joyful and health-promoting. This proposed development would further distance the city centre from the surrounding countryside and change the character of the city to an unacceptable degree. The proposal seems bound to transform an attractive cathedral city into an urban sprawl.

The greatest need in Canterbury is for more and better quality social housing, and I do not accept that this proposed development addresses that need. Better by far to seize the opportunity offered by the worldwide remodelling of the retail trade to develop housing and public services in the city centre, where both would enhance the footfall of whatever will remain of retail and hospitality businesses there.

There are not employment opportunities locally for the likely residents of the new properties, so the reality is going to be the creation of a dormitory sprawl of commuters to London, further crowding the roads and rail services of the district.

I object on environmental grounds, in that the land is currently home to a rich diversity of wildlife. I do not accept that any so-called mitigations will compensate for the loss of environment proposed.

Yours sincerely
Dr Graham Rehling

