



CCC Consultations <consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>

Comments on Draft Canterbury District Local Plan to 2045

1 message

14 January 2023 at 16:38

To: consultations@canterbury.gov.uk

My objections to the Draft Local Plan are as follows:

1. This is not a truly democratic process, as most elected CCC councillors were not consulted on the proposed plan and did not have time to discuss, amend or agree it before publication.
2. There has been insufficient time for residents to study the very long and complicated document, given the intervening Christmas and New Year holidays.
3. The Draft Plan itself is very complex, and some of the most important issues, such as Zoning, are not easy to find, being effectively hidden in Topic Papers, to which the main document makes little or no reference.
4. I am opposed to the huge increase in housing proposed. The UK government no longer mandates housing 'targets'. Whilst some development is welcome, there is not the infrastructure to support such large numbers of dwellings, and historically infrastructure such as water resources and waste-water treatment lags behind approved developments. Specifically, East Kent is a drought area, and there is not the water supply needed for a vastly increased population. Even if the Broad Oak reservoir is eventually built, Southern Water have previously estimated that it would be 10-15 years from start of build to be an effective water resource. The sewage and waste-water treatment facilities cannot presently cope, and although new facilities will be constructed to serve the area south of Littlebourne Road and Canterbury South may help, they do nothing to mitigate the needs of all the other proposed developments. I am concerned at the level of pollution of beaches, rivers, and the Stodmarsh Nature Reserve. Sending lorries to collect sewage does not fundamentally help with its ultimate disposal.
5. Council Officers have told Fordwich Town Council that the provision of water and waste-water facilities is a statutory duty on the water companies and therefore not CCC's responsibility; however, to build houses without regard to these facilities is a gross dereliction of duty by CCC to the district's inhabitants and the environment.
6. I am opposed to the Eastern Movement Corridor. The proposed route will destroy some ancient woodland, green areas, and adversely affect the Stour Valley corridor. Biodiversity and species will be affected in the important ecological sites along and adjacent to the route. There are also important archaeological sites around Fordwich which will be damaged. More roads mean more cars on the road, and people will have to drive further along this very circuitous route. The cost of the road is prohibitive.
7. I am extremely opposed to the proposed Zoning in the City of Canterbury. It is unworkable in such a small city, and will restrict residents' freedom of movement. It will mean residents have to travel further to get from A to B. This will be particularly difficult for the elderly, disabled, and families with young children. Whilst a reduction in pollution from traffic in the city is welcome, this could be achieved in other ways.

I have lived in and around Canterbury for over 60 years, and I believe that the proposals in the Draft Local Plan will destroy the character of Canterbury. The small, friendly, and accessible city will become a sprawling metropolis with large estates on the outskirts, and more roads to serve them. A huge and dominant amount of student accommodation will be in the city centre, and the zoning restrictions will mean a less vibrant city centre for residents as a whole.

The Council has already shut the Sturry Park and Ride, when it should be investing in better buses, electric hopper buses and enforcing a Low Emissions Zone in the city. People need to be encouraged to change their mode of travel with new and cheaper initiatives, but Canterbury City Council has shown no leadership in this regard, to date.

Dr Deborah Connolly



