



CCC Consultations <consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>

Comments on the Draft Canterbury District Plan 2045

1 message

Shad Chittim [REDACTED]

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To: "consultations@canterbury.gov.uk" <consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>

Hello,

I live in the area covered by the plan and have a considerable number of concerns which I intend to express in this email. I trust that it WILL be read and the views I have expressed taken into account.

A28 bypass from Sturry to Bridge

Who will pay? I assume Kent County Council as they are responsible for the A28. Do they know? Have they agreed the proposal and agreed to set aside the funds? Where are the details to make this proposal a plan? Why stop at Bridge? Doing so does not improve the situation at the A28/A2 interchange at Wincheap which is already congested and does nothing to relieve the congestion on Ashford Road in Thannington. The bypass should be extended further towards Ashford perhaps to Chilham.

Housing Developments

Developers MUST be forced to undertake SIGNIFICANT road improvements in order to receive permission to develop on the various sites proposed. To date this HAS NOT BEEN THE CASE which means that the council has failed to comply adequately with Section 278 of the Highways Act 1980.

New Hospital

Since Frank Dobson was Secretary of State for Health in 1997 the plan for the Kent & Canterbury hospital has been to run it down! Does the NHS know about this new hospital that the city council wants and it will need to equip and staff? Or has there been an agreement made with a developer that to obtain planning consent for thousands of houses in south Canterbury they will need to build a new hospital building and a slip road off the A2?

Rough Common Road

How will adding more traffic to this road help? There are no plans to show where the increased traffic will go when it reaches the junction with Whitstable Road? How will the road be widened to cater for increased traffic flow? Property values in Rough Common Road have been blighted by these proposals, how will the residents be compensated? Has the Leader of the Council, who presumably thinks that these proposals are a good idea as he has put his name behind them, actually visited Rough Common Road and spent time there walking its length and considering the potential impact of the changes proposed? Somehow I doubt it!

Zoning of the City

Does the city council seriously believe that it has the authority to do this and that to do so will benefit the MAJORITY of residents and visitors? It would be like living in an open prison, able to visit other parts of the city but only under certain conditions. What kind of state does the council think we are living in?

Why was Ghent chosen as the model on which to base these proposals? It bears no resemblance to Canterbury whatever! Which other cities were studied and why were they rejected? How much did all this cost the council tax payer? Where are the accounts?

Have any of the councillors considered how the proposals will work? For example consider a person aged 75. Currently they are likely to drive to their preferred supermarket or shop in order to do their shopping but will be prevented from doing so if these proposals go ahead unless they are prepared to drive much further

by complying with the zone rules. If this person lives in, say, Harbledown, they will not be able to drive direct to the medical centre in Old Dover Road but will have to travel out to Dunkirk via the A2050 and A2 and then loop back down on the A2 to Bridge before using the A2050 once more to enter Canterbury from the south. Apart from being a waste of time taking probably three to four times longer than the direct route there is also the cost of fuel to be taken into account be it petrol, diesel or electricity for this much longer journey! And I thought the plan was to make Canterbury a greener place with less pollution. If this 75 year old person was me I would probably abandon the whole idea of entering Canterbury.

The plan suggests that alternatives to the use of the private car exist for travel between zones such as walking, bicycles or buses. Using the 75 year old person once more as an example they might feel able to walk, perhaps with a stick, but will be unlikely to cycle and might resort to using a bus if one is available to take them to their chosen destination but, no matter what form of transport they use, they will only be able to carry at the maximum two carrier bags of shopping. The proposals assume that everybody is young and willing and able to walk or cycle, they are not and we have an ageing population. What about the risks in making such journeys on wet and windy days or when there are wet leaves on the pavements as the council has failed to clear them as has been the case in autumn 2022?

OAPs are unlikely to venture out in poor weather without being able to use their own transport. They will be stuck indoors if they cannot afford to cover the cost of the extra distance involved in complying with the zoning rules and could well run out of food. But these draconian rules will not only affect the elderly, they will have a negative impact on younger groups too. Has the council given one second's thought to the mental health issues that WILL arise if these rules are introduced? You are intending to make life very difficult for future generations.

Failure to comply with the zone rules will result in fines being issued to offenders. These draconian rules are to be IMPOSED unilaterally upon the citizens which is WRONG!!! The council intends to make life for its citizens and council tax payers much more difficult!

Bus Services

The council has NO CONTROL over the provision of bus services at present and, unless it intends to establish its own bus company, will continue to rely on the private sector to provide such services which at present are being reduced! Talk of better bus services compensating for the denial of the ability to use personal cars between the proposed zones in the city rings hollow! Just ask the residents of Rough Common who have seen their bus service withdrawn in recent months.

Risk Assessment for the Proposals

Where is it?

This is not a PLAN! There are no details, no costings, no timescales, no sequencing of the various parts! It is merely a series of PROPOSALS and in summary the proposals are INSANE!

I would appreciate it if you could confirm that this email HAS been read.

Shad Chittim