



Response to the Draft plan for Canterbury and the local area

1 message

15 January 2023 at 12:30

To: consultations@canterbury.gov.uk

In response to your consultation process for the Draft Local Plan I confirm that I am a citizen of Canterbury and I have followed closely the plans and responses to this plan. Like many residents I am concerned by the amount of building taking place in Canterbury and the surrounding area largely due to the lack of real and effective considerations for sewage disposal which cannot be dismissed with a lorry collection process daily. This will in time become unsustainable and quietly dropped whilst channelling the sewage into the already overstretched sewage treatment centres. You include the building of schools and sports facilities in the plan. This looks generous but will fall under the Government planning which I fear will demand the closure of all small rural schools in the local villages and thus require a great deal of traffic pollution in delivering children to city schools.

The traffic congestion problems that are expressed in the plan and various proposals to cope with this are very short-sighted in my view. Where people wish to bypass the city of Canterbury they are adequately finding alternative routes to do so and no planning is needed to expand the existing routes. Most people on our roads are wishing to enter Canterbury and find somewhere to park. They will find alternatives if encouraged and educated to do so. If you want a bypass for Canterbury then focus of the A2 which aims to bring people into Canterbury, or through Canterbury. At Rough Common you cannot come off the A2 going north until you have passed Upper Harbledown and you cannot enter going south. Thus it cannot be a bypass and using Rough Common Road as an arterial road to travel to Sturry is not at all possible. The more houses that are built the more congestion there will be as people access the city by car. There needs to be more provision of buses from Park and Ride spaces but these need to be attractive particularly in terms of cost. £3.00 a day would encourage many to park there and it shows that the Council are doing something to help people at this time.

The "zones" plan to me seems totally unworkable and very costly which many people see as a total waste of their money. They see this as an infringement of their liberty to access all parts of Canterbury and it will create resentment and frustration dividing the city and imposing Big Brother type fines and restrictions which will only confuse and not assist people's well being.

I notice that the Draft Plan is intended to extend until 2045 with reviews planned every 5 years. This future date immediately calls to mind the Climate Crisis and our response in Canterbury and around. How do we tackle this looming problem? In the past politicians have tried to deny any responsibility for an increasingly tragic deterioration of our air space. We also need to working hard to get cars off the roads and provide other ways for people to travel. The obvious response is to use bus travel locally a great deal more and in doing so to reduce the cost of this method of travel with subsidies to make it the most attractive way into Canterbury. If this were put in place in the near future it would not only reduce the number of cars on the roads but would help many people struggling with the cost of living crisis. Many would find that they no longer need a car. The number of journeys made on buses would increase and the smaller cost of fares would most likely match the present day overall productivity. Initiatives to encourage use of buses are already in place in other cities across the country. I read that using a bus in the next 3 months would have a cap of £2 per journey. I think people would take the opportunity to try this promotion and see the advantages.

I encourage you to listen to peoples' views and consider carefully the proposals you make. It may affect the choices we make in selecting our councillors in the May elections. People need to feel that their concerns are being addressed and not just tolerated and swept under the carpet which has been my experience in the past few years. We will work with you if you give us the opportunity.

Rosemary Hannibal

