



Brookfields Farm and Transport - Canterbury Local Plan to 2045

1 message

15 January 2023 at 11:27

To: consultations@canterbury.gov.uk

Dear Canterbury City Council,

Local Plan to 2045 – Brooklands Farm and Transport proposals

I have just become aware of the huge estate at Brooklands Farm, South Street, Whitstable which CCC has put forward to include in the next Local Plan to 2045. I wish you to record my strong objection to this development proposal, which would make a major contribution to destroying the whole character of this part of the United Kingdom – not just the Canterbury district. My grounds are as follows:

Apart from fulfilling the central government edicts for housing stock in the South East, I understand the reasoning behind the Brooklands proposal is that by allowing this development to take place, it will produce enough revenue to fund a new by-pass (of sorts) to take traffic and pollution away from the centre of Canterbury. This idea is totally misconceived and does not take into account the additional vehicles that each property will add to the already congested roads in and around the Canterbury district. The proposal for up to 17,000 new houses would add at least 24,000 cars to our roads (according to statistics for car ownership in the south east – which has the highest rate of car ownership in the country), some properties will have only one vehicle, the majority will have 2 vehicles and larger families could have 3 vehicles. Family homes generate the need for school runs – morning and evening – how will all this extra traffic be beneficial to local people and the environment? It is ludicrous to suggest that we can 'build' our way out of congestion. Proposers argue that these changes will address the city's gridlock issues and improve air quality. Canterbury's gridlock issues have been in the making for the last 30 years and whilst new traffic measures are well overdue, thousands of additional houses adding thousands more cars to the already congested roads is not the solution; neither will the loss of green fields and trees to bricks and mortar improve our quality of air in and around the district.

- These proposals are way in excess of the government's minimum requirement of 9,000 homes, and they are in addition to the 16,000 properties already earmarked for construction by 2031 in the authority's original Local Plan. These numbers are so excessive that they will totally change the style of the City of Canterbury, from a small, intimate, historic city into a sprawling characterless urbanization with just one or two quaint streets still left around the cathedral. Such a large development threatens to engulf both Whitstable and Chestfield, and with all the other housing being built along the Thanet Way these two places each with their own distinct character will lose their individuality as they merge into one characterless housing development, against the wishes of the local populace.
- The associated spoke and wheel transport plan to remove traffic from the city centre would simply be an inconvenience to people who wish to travel from one part of the city to another, and when they arrive they will find the car parks have been removed. They will therefore be forced to walk, cycle or wait for a bus, which time-wise is inefficient and will have a detrimental effect on business; it will also be a total impossibility for people who are older and less fit. Most people will simply stay away from the city centre and it will die!
- The 'bypass' itself will involve considerable disruption, not to mention added noise and pollution to local communities like Rough Common. In addition, the bypass proposed is being built after the housing development, so what is supposed to happen in the meantime?
- 17,000 new homes on the outskirts of Canterbury, not to mention all the other proposed housing developments in the draft plan, will cause untold damage to the environment, not only due to the development itself, but the loss of farming land to grow food, the loss of green space countryside, the undoubted impact on flora and fauna, and the increase of all the ills that human beings bring with them (in this case, on a massive scale) – such as sewage/water issues, transport pollution and having to fight for access to every last dwindling under-funded resource - such as schools, nurseries, car parks, GPs, a place to sit on the beach, hospital beds, transport seats etc. How can any of this be a positive thing for the local population?
- We currently have no A&E in Canterbury, and the A&E in both Margate and Canterbury are in crisis; the waiting lists for medical procedures and treatments are becoming ever longer. Where are all these thousands of families supposed to go when they need emergency treatment? There are not enough GP's for the current residents of

Canterbury and environs, there aren't enough ambulances for people. The maternity facilities in Margate are atrocious and babies have died due to lack of care/inexperienced staff and bad management, as referenced in Dr Kirkup's damning report into the maternity services at East Kent, in 2022. Much has been made of the talk regarding a new shell of a hospital for Canterbury, but I would like to point out that this is the 'SHELL' of a building. This is not a fully- functioning, fully equipped, fully staffed, hospital with accompanying diagnostic facilities. How many more years will the people of Canterbury and the surrounding villages have to wait before this new hospital with sufficient ambulances and paramedics, materialises? And where will all the thousands of people moving into these proposed developments go in the meantime??

- Other infrastructure is also woefully lacking. Would CCC like to remind me how many times Southern Water have released untreated sewage into the seas around Whitstable, Herne Bay and Thanet because their sewage treatment plants have been unable to cope with all the raw sewage from the current households in this area? Just check out SOS Whitstable for the latest on the damage done to our seas and the environment by the dumping of raw sewage because Southern Water can't cope with the current household waste water. Every acre of land which is built upon, is one less acre to absorb water during heavy rains. Covering green fields with concrete only exacerbates this problem, creating even more 'run off' going down drains and into the system. The same applies to drinking water, when South East Water ask us to conserve water during hot summers because they don't have enough fresh water for the current housing stock because the aquifers are low. Speculation has been on-going for years about a new water reservoir in Broad Oak to assist with these issues but nothing has come of it. It is madness to continue to build more and more houses without first addressing all these infrastructure issues: GP's, Hospitals, Sewage treatment, Water supplies, Road and local transport infrastructure, Dentists, Schools. Not to mention the additional landfill sites needed to accommodate all the extra household rubbish generated by large housing estates. Surely common sense must prevail, because the communities already resident in Canterbury and environs deserve better. They need GPs, ambulances, hospitals, NOW, not thousands more residents using the current services which are already strained to breaking point.
- Government statistics as to how much additional housing is required in this country are very suspect, and central government have in recent weeks even backtracked on their edicts, saying that they may have got it wrong and in actual fact, much less housing will be required than originally thought. Which makes me wonder why CCC is going along with this and not simply turning around and saying the South East (certainly around Canterbury) is way over-subscribed already?
- Your voters, your constituents whom you profess to represent, do not want this massive increase in local population, or population in general. We want to retain our lifestyle (which is already pressured enough by over-population) and together with it, our mental health! We have fought for these freedoms - our English way of life, and don't wish to stand by and see it destroyed by the dictates of either national or local politicians – who are supposed to have our welfare at heart, but always seem to be pushing against common sense and public opinion. If you push these developments through, you may be assured you will not be in power after the next election(s) – and I have hitherto been a life-long Conservative voter!

The amount of development being proposed for this city and surrounding district is utter madness and will in no way improve the quality of life for those living here – quite the reverse. We do not want and cannot have the massive increase in population for this area that is being proposed.

CCC needs to take a stand AGAINST all of this, not collaborate with an out-of-touch central government by proposing all these grandiose schemes. I cannot over-state my opposition to your housing proposals!

In short - improve the flow of traffic around Canterbury City centre – yes, but do not close car parks, block up roads and build a so-called by-pass to achieve it. And do not bring ever more vehicles, people, pollution and environmental degradation into the area by building massive housing developments, when you know the overall effect of this will be detrimental to us all.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Michael Swain



