

Jill Leigh



To:

Referring to the Local Plan

Canterbury City Council

Military Road

Canterbury CT1 1YW

14th January 2023

Dear Staff,

I would like to register a strong objection to the new proposed local plan 2045 on the following grounds.

There are many serious objections to the plan that I can foresee, and I am amazed that such a plan has been constructed.

Firstly, there is another plan to build an extra 9000 new houses. This is addition to all the many new builds in progress. There is no infrastructure for the massive house building schemes being planned e.g. water, waste water, general waste, schools, community welfare, doctor surgeries hospitals.

There are already thousands of houses from previous local plans yet to be built. Does this mean that they are no longer part of the local plan?

- 1) The loss of very precious green space. How will the local authority make sure that there will be no negative environmental impact on the area?
- 2) The destruction of the old town centre will alter the joy and wonder of the current town centre.
- 3) These changes will prevent new business seeing the city as a place to invest.
- 4) I cannot see how dividing the area into zones helps traffic when it immediately puts travellers wanting to access different parts of the city onto the road for much longer as they travel out of their area along the outer ring road then

doubling back on themselves. This will cause far more pollution to the city and surrounding areas.

- 5) My own concern from my point of view is shopping for food. As a woman I cannot carry as much as any man could. I do a lot of voluntary work in the city, I look after grand children frequently if they are sick etc. How will I get enough food for me to eat, if I cannot drive to the supermarkets? How will I carry groceries home? How will I have time to shop several times a week, spending hours waiting for busses? I am speaking here for my neighbours who have been left with no busses on Rough Common Road. It is a 8 minute walk to the bus stop now. That is a very long walk at my age , especially carrying groceries!
- 6) Furthermore, consider disabled people, and those unable to walk or cycle distances for health reasons? What about accessing supermarkets etc? What about parents dropping their children off to schools in different zones then having to negotiate a workplace in yet another zone?
- 7) Many local businesses thrive on tourism. How will you mitigate against the inconvenience, confusion? Already many people are not using the town centre due to excessive parking. What will happen to our beautiful town centre? How will visitors understand and negotiate the carving the city up into zones and having huge building projects that will be excessively expensive and hugely unpopular. I believe that local councils do not have to follow the government proposals. There is the option for any local authority to contest the central government guides especially when heritage and the character of the existing city is at stake.

In particular, I think the student population may change in the future. Higher education is changing. Student numbers appear to be shrinking across all universities. Universities are already looking ahead to more online courses. Less in class. This could create a massive loss of income in the city. Students fill low paid jobs, they pay excessive rents, they spend a lot of money that comes direct from parents and loans. Basically universities have brought a lot of wealth into Canterbury. Kent University in particular aims at overseas students who often come with huge allowances from parents. All this money is poured into our city and keeps our attractions, food outlets, café's and much entertainment afloat.

I think we will suffer a massive reduction of money coming into Canterbury as we now have over 40,000 students in two universities. Secondly we may well see university staff reduced faster than ever before. Our City, already depleted with shops becoming accommodation may face enormous staff reductions in the future years.

I cannot see how this proposal enhances the life of any of the present local community that the council is charged to look after. Furthermore you are failing to take account of the changes afoot. We may be begging people to come into the city centre in future years. Not trying to prevent them.

Policy C26 covering land between the university and Blean church looks like a subtle back route into developing valuable farming land and making the wonderful

pedestrian path called the crab and winkle way, into part of the bypass. This would be a travesty.

I live on [REDACTED] and I am at a loss to see how 'upgrading' this road into bypass solves any problems at all for the city. Community Life in Rough Common will be destroyed and cause a grossly negative affect on the many families who live here. In what way does 'upgrading' this road have any benefit at all for this community? What exactly is meant by the term 'upgrading?'

This is the first time I have been completely horrified by a local plan and the first time I have put forward an objection. As caretakers of this beautiful city please reconsider this plan.

Yours Sincerely

Jill Leigh.