



ICKHAM AND WELL PARISH COUNCIL

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Clerk to Parish Council



Our Ref: CCC Local Plan Response
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FAO: CCC Local Plan Team
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CANTERBURY DISTRICT DRAFT LOCAL PLAN TO 2045 ICKHAM AND WELL PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSE

Whilst we understand the pressure that population growth in Canterbury is putting on the City Council and welcome the provision of new housing for the next generation. In terms of the impact on our Parish in Ickham and Well, we have the following concerns and observations.

Policy SS2 The development of a new garden community at Cooting Farm, Addisham:

The majority of the development would be on prime agricultural land at a time when the UK should be striving towards self-sustainability in food, not away from it.

The development will effectively merge Addisham and Aylesham, swamping the former and removing its own identity.

The number of housing developments; Cooting Farm (3,200 houses) Littlebourne (350 houses) and the Mountfield Park development (4,000) in the existing plan, would vastly increase the amount of local traffic and car journeys per day. Although some traffic will go South down the B2046 to the A2, a great deal will come North to the A257. A huge bottleneck will be created in Wingham at the "Red Lion" junction (even more than today), and drivers will soon start seeking out rat runs on smaller country lanes to reach the A257. Inevitably this will blight the lives of residents of Addisham, Wingham, Bramling and Bekesbourne.

The A257 is wholly inadequate for today's volume of Traffic. In 1991 the road was recognised by Kent Highways as being inadequate at the then volumes, so much so, they suggested the need for bypasses of Ash, Wingham and Littlebourne. The Ash bypass was built but not the latter two. Since then, the volumes have increased but the road has not been improved.

Policy SS4 The Canterbury Circulation Plan (CCP):

The driver for the policy is to reduce traffic volumes and congestion in Canterbury and hence pollution. The central government driven targets for the introduction for electric vehicles is set to be mostly achieved within the timescales of the Local Plan and will therefore solve the pollution problem without local intervention.

However, Canterbury is not a new city and cannot be treated as such. Being centuries old, it was not designed with the suggestion of regional division in mind, and it will not work. Obviously, visitors to Canterbury, whether local residents or tourists, are to be encouraged, or the city centre will die even more than it is doing so already. The proposals to "criminalise" people who wish to purchase more than they can carry by foot or bike or even park and ride, will kill the city centre. It will be impossible for local people, who may have to make two or three calls in different parts of the city, to go about their normal daily lives. The ludicrous suggestion that vehicles will have to go in and out of the city centre to a "bypass" to reach another part of the city will only add to vehicle miles driven, and hence congestion, pollution, not to say expense of local people.

The different zones in Canterbury will increase journey lengths and therefore increase pollution. City Centre car parks will be removed and there will be 'improved public transport connectivity across the city'. This seems extremely unlikely as we have just had to fight to keep a vital bus route open through our parish.

Policies R15 and R16 Development at The Hill and Court Hill Littlebourne:

Littlebourne does not have the capacity for a further 350 houses. The road through Littlebourne and the junction with Nargate Street and Bekesbourne Lane is already dangerous, without additional cars. With these new houses, plus the development at Addisham, the extra traffic passing through our parish will increase the dangers, pollution etc.

Littlebourne school (which also serves our Parish), even with an additional 106 places planned, will see the school at full capacity following the completion of the latest development The Laurels. So, as things stand, it seems the children of the two additional sites in the proposed plan at Littlebourne will not have the local school to attend.

Littlebourne surgery which serves many of our parishioners, will need to be upgraded to cope with the two new developments. There seems to be no consideration of how the surgery will be supported in the plan considering the increasing numbers of new residents.

We are aware that the current provision for water waste in Littlebourne is at an insufficient level of capacity, even before taking the recent development of The Laurels into account. The two proposed development sites will greatly increase this pressure on internal and external flooding in Littlebourne during wet winters, with its concomitant impact on the Little Stour in our Parish downstream of The Nailbourne in Littlebourne. Whilst assured by a planning officer there would be an upgrade in Littlebourne of the pipe work by Southern Water, further measures could be considered on

developers that any new build has mandatory grey water capture which is recycled in the home so that it does not add to the sewage system.



Signed by

R. Davison, Ickham and Well Parish Council Clerk

on behalf of Ickham and Well Parish Council

15.01.2023