



CHAPEL DOWN

TENTERDEN ENGLAND

16th January 2023

Policy team,
Canterbury City Council
Council Offices
Military Road
Canterbury
KENT CT1 1YY

Dear Canterbury Policy Team,

Chapel Down is the UK's leading wine producer, and we have ambitious expansion plans. Having outgrown our current production facility in Tenterden, we require a new purpose-built facility at a site within Kent's burgeoning wine region, with direct access to the highways network, and with land around it for potential vineyard planting.

Our site search has led us to Canterbury Business Park, an existing employment site which is the only location that ticks all the boxes.

We currently have a planning application for a new production facility at Canterbury Business Park that fully accords with the emerging policy and will allow for construction of the facilities for use ahead of the 2024 harvest.

Canterbury Business Park already supports many local businesses, including those in the food and drinks industry. It has excellent access to the A2 and is located within the chalky Kent Downs, home to a growing wine region. It is set within a larger agricultural landholding suitable for vineyard planting.

Chapel Down therefore full supports the Regulation 18 draft Local Plan. In particular we support policy C4 which identifies Canterbury Business Park as a strategic location for employment space, including a viticulture hub and agree with the conclusion reached in paragraph 2.18 of the supporting text for policy C21 that there are not other sites available to meet such needs. Chapel Down supports draft policy C21 which allocates land adjacent to Canterbury Business Park for employment development and a viticulture hub. We are very encouraged to see the draft plan acknowledge that the existing employment site already has established links to the food and drinks sectors, and that there is potential for expansion of the park including creation of a viticulture hub alongside storage and distribution uses, making use of the site's excellent links to the strategic road network.



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We welcome recognition that there is a growth in viticulture and wine tourism and that creation of a viticulture hub at Canterbury Business Park could ring together various aspects of the winemaking process, such as production, research and storage and distribution.

Our expansion plans at Canterbury Business Park would allow us continue our growth as the nation's leading sparkling wine producer. This is especially fitting, given Canterbury is twinned with Reims, capital of the Champagne region in France.

Yours Sincerely



Josh Donaghay-Spire

Operations Director and Head Winemaker - Chapel Down