



CCC Consultations <consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>

Response to Canterbury Local District Plan

1 message

Anthony Charlton [REDACTED]

16 January 2023 at 17:11

To: "consultations@canterbury.gov.uk" <consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>
[REDACTED]

To Whom It May Concern

I am responding to the Canterbury Local District Plan on behalf of all of our 700 weekly Mass attending parishioners of St Thomas of Canterbury Roman Catholic Church [REDACTED]. I am also responding as part of the Churches Together in [Canterbury](#) Group for all our Christian

The District Plan vision for Canterbury “**is to build its success as the key visitor and shopping destination in Kent**”. Canterbury achieves its World heritage status based on three sites of Christian worship. There is no acknowledgement of this in the New District plan or any recognition of the importance to the community of ease of access to the Churches. This will be made more difficult as a result of the proposed Canterbury Circulation Plan and the car parking closures. For those attending city churches such as St Thomas of Canterbury, in the Burgate, or the Cathedral itself, parking and access is already a serious challenge. The proposed closure of more of the adjacent car parks will make access more difficult and suggests that the plan is conceived by those who are indifferent or even hostile to the Christian tradition and practice. The churches draw their congregations from a wide catchment area, access by car is for the majority the only practical option. This applies not only to those attending regularly on Sundays and Holydays but also for funerals and weddings attended by many from outside the city. The building of so many new houses will increase the number wishing to attend St Thomas of Canterbury in the Burgate and other churches. The plan seems intent on ensuring that church attendance depends on surmounting obstacles, which will be exacerbated by policies proposed in the plan.

We urge the council to:

(a) reconsider the proposed Circulation Plan and city car park closures

and

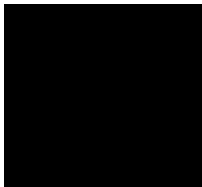
(b) ensure that the District Plan explicitly recognises the needs of the community for ease of access to the city churches

Thank you

Yours faithfully

Canon Rev Anthony Charlton KHS

Parish Priest



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