



CCC Consultations <consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>

Fordwich - Consultation on Eastern By-pass and Canterbury development

1 message

Janet Wilson-Sharp [REDACTED]

16 January 2023 at 17:01

To: "consultations@canterbury.gov.uk" <consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>

Dear Miss Asimaki,

As a Fordwich resident, I am writing to object to the planned Eastern By-Pass and zoning of Canterbury.

The Eastern By-Pass

The consultation appears to have been based on costings from 2021. Given rising inflation and costs, these costings must now be wildly inaccurate and I doubt whether committing to such an expensive plan in this financial climate is wise.

Building new roads across flood meadows, agricultural land and historic woodland, in addition to the housing development planned for Sturry, will increase the risk of flooding in low-lying parts of Fordwich and Sturry. We have already experienced several floods in this area, including flooding with foul water as the existing drains and water treatment plant cannot cope. It is now well-known that concreting over land is a significant contributing factor in flooding as rain water cannot soak into the land. Given what we have witnessed here, and are seeing in other parts of the country right now, this is a factor which must be taken seriously by the Council. Rather than building a By-Pass, the Council and KCC should focus on improving existing drainage systems, particularly storm drains, and work with Southern Water to improve water treatment services.

The construction work will cause wide destruction to the local ecology, historic woodland as well as irreparable damage to Grade 1 Agricultural land. The suggested gains in terms of reduced pollution will be outweighed by increased pollution and damage.

Zoning

In order to be a success, each zone in a "15-minute city" must have sufficient, good facilities and services for all residents - including schools and nurseries, medical care, shops – and excellent public transport. This is not the case in Canterbury and the surrounding area.

To restrict residents access around the city and to fine people for violations will harm residents, particularly the disabled, the elderly, carers, parents with young children and others who have no choice to rely on a car.

The city centre has been badly affected by lockdown and continues to suffer due to the extortionate parking charges. If the Council then makes it even harder for residents to get to the city centre, it will become a vicious cycle: it will reduce footfall in city centre shops and cafes, those businesses will lose money and more will close, the city will have less to offer visitors, students and residents, people will go elsewhere.

I work with international students at the University of Kent and I can confirm that the city is a big part of why they choose to come. They do not want to spend all their time on campus, but being able to walk or cycle to/around the city are not enough to draw them here. If the city loses more businesses because it's too expensive or too complicated for residents or tourists to use them, then it will be a less attractive for the students.

I hope the Council will follow the example of the mayor of Ghent and look at ideas that will work for Canterbury and the surrounding area rather than trying to impose this theory of how cities should work.

1/16/23, 7:12 PM

EKS Partnership Mail - Fordwich - Consultation on Eastern By-pass and Canterbury development

Yours sincerely

Janet Wilson-Sharp