



CCC Consultations <consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>

Local Plan consultation response - FOF&D objection to EMC

1 message

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To: consultations@canterbury.gov.uk

16 January 2023 at 16:44

The Friends of Fordwich & District (FOF&D) believe that the proposed Eastern Movement Corridor (EMC) poses an existential threat to Fordwich generally, and in particular its community, its wildlife habitats and its world class archaeology.

At this time it is not certain whether the extension of the deadline for submissions granted to FTC and residents of Fordwich will cover FOF&D, so hence this very brief objection.

1. Canterbury is far too small for the proposed zoning to be workable, and would lead to more travel by car, not less. The main reason for the EMC is to facilitate the zoning proposal, so if no zoning, then no need for EMC at all.
2. The EMC as proposed would likely cost at least £300 million (the Stantec prices are completely unrealistic). This money (or even half of it) would be better spent on massive improvements to public transport, which would drastically cut the need for transport by private car. Again, no need for the EMC
3. If the EMC has to go ahead (perhaps because of the likely gridlock as the new road from Broadoak brings even more traffic onto an already congested A28 Sturry Road) then the proposed route will do enormous damage to Fordwich (contrary to various other policies in the new Local Plan).
4. The decision for the EMC as proposed fails to recognise that the route neatly cuts Fordwich in half, destroys over 50 acres of mature woodland with with a rich and thriving wildlife population (described as 'agricultural land' by Stantec) and would require a massive archeological investigation – again not recognised by Stantec in their report. The likely outcome of the archaeology (apart from the enormous cost) is a World Heritage designation which would lead to a requirement to find another route. So, better to find another route now.
5. It is our understanding the Natural England have ruled out the first two routes produced by Stantec, presumably due to likely actual damage to the SSSI and wildlife habitats. If the eastern version of the EMC is the only one up for consideration, then we would ask that CCC consider modification of the proposed route. FOF&D believe that a modified route could be found that avoids cutting Fordwich in half, avoids the internationally important archaeology to the east of the SSSI, and avoids pristine wildlife habitats.

Thank you for considering this response.

Roger Green

Chair, FOF&D