



CCC Consultations <consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>

Local Plan 2045

1 message

16 January 2023 at 15:09

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

Comments from Mr and Mrs M J Paterson

We have been resident at the above address for almost 40 years and over that period have seen a vast increase in traffic along the A257 which is now pretty much a continual factor during daylight hours.

We have also seen an enormous reduction in the wildlife habitats from the woods to our rear becoming first a field and now a housing development to the decimation of the orchard trees across the road.

Today we are surrounded by light pollution from the A257, Polo Farm Hockey pitches and now the Polo Field development.

All these developments have had a deleterious effect on the birds and other wildlife which used to be commonplace. We have lost the bull finches, the green finches and the woodpeckers. This winter the gold finches have left and the starlings are now nowhere to be seen. We used to see at least 4 hedgehogs every year but now no more than 2.

This Local Plan now proposes to surround us with C12 - 1400 houses, C13 – 645 houses, C14 – 67 houses and C15 – 74 houses.

This is completely unsustainable given the biodiversity and other 'green' credentials claimed in the Strategy.

On top of this desecration we have the possibility of the Eastern Movement Corridor carving across footpaths, dividing communities and damaging the environment of the Lampen Stream which feeds into the National Nature Reserve (a RAMSAR site) at Stodmarsh.

To quote your Strategy

*Proposals for development (plan or project) which may have a significant adverse effect on the integrity of a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) or Ramsar site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, **will not be permitted.***

The plans as they stand propose housing near Chequers Wood and Old Park where there are areas of ancient woodland and a variety of habitats supporting among other species breeding populations of turtle doves and nightingales. This area needs to have improved connectivity via the wet woodland of the Stour Valley to the RAMSAR site at Stodmarsh. Currently it is planned to separate these important habitats by the noise and pollution, of both from light and traffic emissions, from the Eastern Movement Corridor.

Again to quote your Strategy:

'What is needed to restore functioning ecological networks is:Enhancing connections between, or join up, sites,

We note that there is emphasis on the planting of trees within the housing developments but nothing is mentioned concerning the ongoing care and nurture of these, without which many will not survive.

A stated aim governing the production of this Plan is said to be the reduction of congestion on the 'Inner Ring Road'. This 'congestion' occurs, and always has occurred, during the twice daily **term time** rush hours. Little consideration appears to have been given to solving this major 'congestion' problem. Accidents, breakdowns and roadworks will also obviously clog up the smooth running of the traffic. Is building an enormous number of houses really going to address these situations? We suggest this will only exacerbate the problem.

Reliable and comprehensive solutions to school transport need to be thought out. Little point channeling all vehicles onto fewer routes (as per the Zoning scheme) or assuming children will be able to walk or cycle from the villages if you provide 'safe' routes for them. With more houses will come more children and more journeys will be needed to get them where they need to go.

The premise that the Eastern Movement Corridor will be funded by monies received from developers as they build the houses is a flawed scenario. Improve the availability and scope of public transport, plus your cycling and walking infrastructure and maybe such a road will not be necessary.

As it stands we cannot support this Plan.