



CCC Consultations <consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>

Canterbury Local Plan

1 message

16 January 2023 at 14:40

To: policy@canterbury.gov.uk, consultations@canterbury.gov.uk

to Victoria Asimaki - Policy Officer (Engagement)

I write to support the Canterbury Local Plan policies of CCC Reg 18 Local Plan- South West Policies and the Draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan (October2022) with specific reference to SS5, C5 and C6 therein.

As Chairman of Canterbury City Football Club, I very much welcome the positive inclusion of a sports hub facility within the Local Plan, as it will allow the Club to accomplish our objectives of providing a safe environment for spectators and also players of all abilities, to learn, develop & enjoy playing football as a community sport within the Canterbury area, which we have been unable to do for some considerable time.

Canterbury City Football Club is a CIC (community interest company) structured as a not-for-profit organisation, that is serving the city with a senior football team playing in the Southern Counties East Football League at step 5 level of the national football league pyramid.

But we are currently playing our "home" matches 24 miles away in Sittingbourne. Ever since the Council sold off the Kingsmead Stadium lands where we played, the Club has had a nomadic existence, undertaking various groundshare arrangements with other Kent clubs and playing our "home" matches at different towns across the county. This Canterbury Local Plan which includes a sports hub with shared facilities for Rugby and Football, will correct that wrong. This developer funded facility will enable the Council to fulfil their historic obligation to the football club.

Owing to the distance of being away from Canterbury, the Club has struggled financially, as supporters have dwindled in numbers and sponsorship has been excessively difficult, resulting in currently only being able to finance one men's senior team. A return to our heritage would allow the Club to develop as a functional healthy football club for the community. If we had our own home ground facilities with 4G pitches, we could once again provide sport for Youth teams, Ladies football, Veterans, Disabled and Homeless People teams. The benefits of participating in sport, especially for the younger generation, has been well documented and is far ranging.

The location of the development means that it is perfectly located for public transport, bicycle and pedestrian access to the city centre and to main line trains.

In addition, the Policies also bring vital housing to the District correcting an undersupply of homes being built. I also note that there is a much welcomed delivery of a new hospital, community centre and new on/off sliproads with the A2 trunk road and alleviation of traffic at Wincheap via a new South West Link road. All of which I support.

Yours

Trevor James
Chairman - Canterbury City Football Club CIC