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CCC Consultations <consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>

Local Plan to 2045 Feedback

1 message

[redacted] 16 January 2023 at 16:28

To: consultations@canterbury.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to provide my feedback on the Canterbury and District Local plan to 2045.

As a general point I would say that the documentation and supporting evidence is not easily digestible by the man in the street. It is full of technical terms, references to outside documentation/plans/proposals/guidance which cannot be easily found or understood. I think that this does not help residents fully understand the plan and decide whether they approve of some or all of it.

Having said that I have done my best to understand and have the following comments:

1/ Housing volumes

The volume of new houses proposed is significantly greater than required either by other forecasters or the government. This will put far to much stress on the infrastructure of the area – sewage, water, transport etc. It would see the city double in size. This is far too big a growth in far too short a time.

It seems the only reason for this growth is to attract developer funding for primarily the outer ring road which KCC and others do not believe will solve Canterbury's traffic problems.

2/ Transport

Congestion in the town is significant at peak periods and has been determined to be 70% ish local journeys – often school drop off and pick up as evidenced by the fact that traffic is significantly less during holidays.

The plan proposes effectively two developments to address the problem:

i/ Outer ring road – this may help to reduce some proportion of the 30% of traffic but at a huge cost both financially, overbearing housing, loss of green land and environmental impacts.

ii/ Zoning – This is a ludicrous suggestion in a city as small as Canterbury. Are people supposed to pay to get to supermarkets, doctors, dentists, gyms, recreation areas? I am a resident of Canterbury and should be able to be free to enjoy it, not have to calculate a cost benefit for everything I do.

There is almost nothing concrete in the plan for public transport. A robust schools bus service would do much to remove traffic from our roads. The main solution to local car journeys is walking and cycling. How on earth is this in any way a robust solution to the problem? What about the old and infirm? What about young children? What about people with bags of shopping? The proposals in the plan are laughable.

3/ Economic impact

Closing all the car parks in the city with just a vague idea to increase carparks outside the city walls. If you can identify spaces for housing in the plan why can't you identify places for the car parks? Unless there are hard commitments you would be destroying the centre of Canterbury as a shopping area. Not too clever when you bought the White Friars centre.

4/ General

The plan is depressingly unambitious. The proposals are more of the same – more housing, more roads, more restrictions and higher costs for residents.

Is there seriously no one in the planning department that can create a vision for Canterbury that is appropriate to the world we expect to be living in by the middle of the centuary? Surely the plan should be aimed at delivering for the residents of the area. A better functioning, vibrant, easy and rewarding city to live in. This plan delivers anything but.

I am so disappointed in this plan I can't put it in to words.

J Hunt