



CCC Consultations <consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>

Comments on Local Plan 2045

1 message

Richard Navarro [REDACTED]

16 January 2023 at 21:03

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to add to my comments on the Local Plan which I gave via the questionnaire.

Although I welcome the plan's commitments to environmental sustainability, net zero commitments and the protection of areas such as the Blean, I am deeply concerned by the breadth and volume of new developments proposed by the Plan and would like to state my opposition to the development of a number of areas close to Canterbury city centre.

In general, across all the proposed 'out of town' developments, I am concerned - as a city centre resident who struggles with traffic congestion and poor air quality - that the developments are being pursued at the cost of existing residents' wellbeing and health. The increases to traffic before and after the years of construction vehicles crossing the city will be unmanageable and make the city's overcrowded ring roads/surrounding roads yet more congested.

The widening of the road in Rough Common, where I lived as a child, will - I know - split the community and make it less safe and healthy to live in the village. It is unfair to move the circulating traffic into Rough Common via this road, a solution which is antithetical to the notion of developing the village's community as noted elsewhere.

- I oppose the development of Merton Park, as the mitigation of the habitat loss in this area through the provision of the green corridors and open spaces will not balance the huge loss of biodiversity in this area
- I oppose the creation of the Sturry/A28 bypass as it will decimate areas of woodland and natural habitats near to Stodmarsh and Fordwich.
- I retain my opposition (as per 2017 plan) to the proposed Mountfield Park development, largely on traffic grounds and the erasure of open space between Canterbury and Bridge
- I also oppose the development of land between Aylesham and Adisham, as this will harm the quality of life for all in those existing settlements and result in huge loss of wildlife and recreational space crucial for wellbeing.

The development aspect of the plan needs to be reconsidered, reducing dramatically the number of new builds in the city to safeguard the wellbeing, the futures, of those already living in the city.

The traffic plan (dividing the city into sections which cannot be crossed) will be unworkable without deep and significant increases in the efficiency / availability of public transport and safe cycle routes, which should be the priority before seeking to enforce the proposed traffic system.

I will remain opposed to 'regeneration' of spaces such as Pound Lane Car Park until this term is clarified, and assert that such recovered spaces are designated as space or parks which can be accessed by/enjoyed by the public and local residents (or utilised through allotments/market

gardens). This needs clarification, guaranteeing that they will not be developed into housing for profit, before I and no doubt other residents can accept such a suggestion.

Lastly, I am a frequent walker/runner near to Wincheap Water Meadows and reassert my previously-expressed view (cf my song and video here <https://youtu.be/HVRrdYkXiMQ>) that this vitally important habitat and beauty spot be protected from any future development, noting the commitment in the plan to the expansion of the Park and Ride.

Richard Navarro-Pollott

