

Draft Local Plan 2045

I write to comment on a particular aspect of the Draft Local Plan which causes me concern, namely the diverting of all traffic from and to the north by way of an upgraded Rough Common Road.

The main cause of Canterbury's traffic problem is of Canterbury City Council's own making, exasperated by something the Council has continually failed to address. The source of our evercrowded roads are the succession of new housing estates that have enveloped previously open areas of countryside, pulling in families from London and elsewhere beyond the Canterbury district. The problem that the Council has failed to fix, are the two level crossings at St Dunstan's Street and St Stephen's Road. I cannot see any way to deal with the St Stephen's crossing but I would have thought that the St Dunstan's crossing could have been made redundant by means of a bridge, but this was before the Council granted building permission for the retirement apartments on the old tyre depot site, and before they built their own multistorey car park in Station Road West.

It becomes quite obvious during school holidays that much of our traffic is being caused by parents ferrying their children to and from school. I cannot believe that more couldn't be achieved with school buses, the way it was done before parents had a single car let alone a second one for "the school run".

The scheme outlined in the Draft Local Plan would make everyone who lives or works in Canterbury a loser and because of longer road journeys, our environment would suffer too. On a local level, anyone living in Rough Common would find the quality of their lives reduced and our heritage would take a hit as well. Any road widening work to Rough Common Road would inevitably come at the expense of the coppice woodland on its western edge. Within this section of wood, quite close to the road that it was designed to cover, still with its gun mounting bolts intact, is a brick built WW II anti-tank gun mounting; an important relic of the 1940 Corps Line and our country's recent history.

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