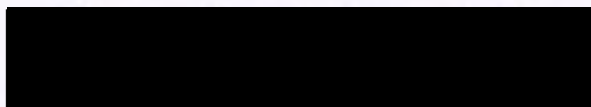
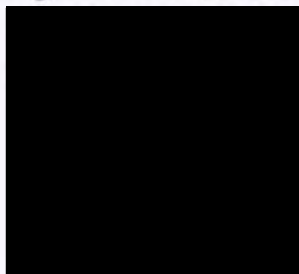


Mr J.D.Saunders



Canterbury City Council,
Planning Department
Military Road
CANTERBURY

16th January 2023

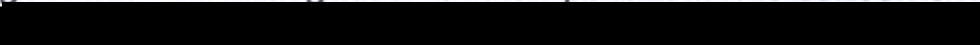
Canterbury District Local Plan to 2045: objections

Dear Sirs,

I refer to your draft Local Plan to 2045 on which my daughter and son in law have already written to you. I support their criticisms and have the following added comments and specific objections, in particular for the so-called "Eastern Movement Corridor" road.

1. Our elected representatives on Fordwich Town Council inform us that CCC councillors were not consulted on the Draft Plan which is an extremely lengthy document. We have had very little time to locally discuss, the complex plan before its publication, and to specifically address plans for the "Eastern Movement Corridor" which would affect Fordwich in particular.

2. There seems to have been allocated little time for the wishes of Fordwich residents to study the very long and complicated document in the plans and reply online, but I understand that, due to pressure from Fordwich Town Council (which apparently was not consulted by Council Officers unlike other parishes), the period for commenting by letter or email has been extended.

3. There are also important archaeological sites around Fordwich which will be damaged. More roads mean more cars on the road, and people will have to drive further along this lengthy route, meaning even MORE congestion and air pollution. This concerns me greatly because I am now 

4. I am very much opposed to proposals for the huge increase in housing, and a new bypass road will inevitably stimulate even more housing development as developers will be queueing for ever more housing schemes to be approved. Whilst some development is always welcome, there is not the local infrastructure to support such large numbers of dwellings - in particular, water resources and waste water treatment.

5. I believe that East Kent is considered a 'drought' area, with less than average UK annual rainfall, and there is not even the water supply for the current population, never mind that needed for one proposed to vastly increase. Even a Broad Oak reservoir (if approved) would take 10-15 years to be an effective water resource.

6. Sewage and waste-water treatment infrastructure and facilities **cannot even cope** with the current demand, and although new facilities will be constructed to serve the area south of Littlebourne Road and Canterbury South and may help, they will do nothing to satisfy the needs of all the other proposed developments.

7. The level of pollution of beaches, rivers, and the Stodmarsh Nature Reserve is well known to be critical and can only get worse. Sending trucks daily to collect sewage does not fundamentally help with its ultimate disposal – it simply adds yet more costs.

8. The proposed route of the "Eastern Movement Corridor" will destroy irreplaceable areas of ancient woodland, green areas, footpaths and will adversely affect the Stour Valley corridor. I am very much afraid that the SSSIs which surround us and lie in the path of this "Corridor" will be adversely and dramatically affected.

9. I have lived in Fordwich for over [REDACTED] years, and love living here in the historic "smallest town in England", despite its traffic problems. I think that the proposals in the Draft Local Plan will not only effectively destroy our historic town but even more sadly, perhaps even the character of Canterbury itself.

10. Canterbury is a magnificent, historic, friendly, and accessible city with a fascinating history dating back to Roman times, and it is a UN World Heritage site. If the Local Plan is approved we fear that it will become just another sprawling 21st Century unattractive and inaccessible disorganised urban metropolis with large estates on the outskirts, and yet more roads to serve them.

11. In my view, what is needed is for people to be encouraged to change their mode of travel to new, less polluting and cheaper initiatives, but Canterbury City Council has shown scant leadership in this as it has with many other of their projects to date.


The large number of new "executive" developments around our small town give most of the residents of Fordwich the feeling that we are being "surrounded" and they have already contributed to a *very* significant increase in traffic movements through Fordwich High Street (our well-known "Rat Run"). As a consequence this will now be spread over much longer periods of the working day, and means more air pollution which is **not** acceptable for residents with breathing issues like myself.

Our friends and fellow neighbours here privately discuss these changes yet seem powerless to have any influence over them. We all wonder where the people who purchase these superb new "executive homes" actually *work*, however, because we cannot believe that there are such a huge number of highly-paid jobs in the Canterbury area itself so as to justify these expensive houses and all this new development. We are left with the firm conclusion that permissions for new developments is simply a money-making exercise by CCC.

12. The huge cost of the "Eastern Corridor road" will be prohibitive, and I believe it is unnecessary and a waste of scarce council funds. Who will bear the cost of this? Naturally, the burden will fall to Canterbury Council Tax payers: more funds needed for the coffers of CCC at the expense of small rural communities like ours.

I hope that you will take these comments seriously and give them your full and careful consideration when you revise the Draft Local plan?

Yours faithfully,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of J.D. Saunders.

J.D.Saunders