

*Anthony D. Hurst*



Canterbury City Council,  
Planning Department  
Military Road  
CANTERBURY

15<sup>th</sup> January 2023

**Objections to Canterbury District Local Plan to 2045**

Dear Sirs,

I have gone through your draft Local Plan to 2045 thoroughly and have the following comments and specific objections, in particular for the Eastern Movement Corridor road and how it will affect residents of Fordwich:

1. We understand from our elected representatives on Fordwich Town Council that CCC councillors were not consulted on the Draft Plan which is an extremely lengthy document. The complex plan for the Eastern Movement Corridor affects Fordwich in particular and which we have not had time to discuss, amend or agree to before publication by CCC.
2. There seems to have been allocated little time or importance for the wishes of Fordwich residents to study the very long and complicated document in the plans and reply using the lengthy online document, given the Festive period and intervening holidays. However, I understand that, due to pressure from Fordwich Town Council (which was not consulted by Council Officers, as were other parishes) the period for commenting by letter or email has been extended to 16<sup>th</sup> January
3. Some of the most important issues, such as Zoning, are not easy to find, being effectively hidden in Topic Papers, to which the main document makes little or no reference. One is given to wonder if the authors of the plans, doubtless paid a sizable fee by CCC for the privilege, intentionally made the plans as complex and convoluted as possible so as to obfuscate the issues at the heart of it, thereby making opposition more difficult.



4. I am opposed to the huge increase in housing proposed, and a new bypass road will inevitably stimulate even MORE housing development as developers will feel that they are being given the "green light" for ever more housing schemes to be approved. The UK government no longer mandates housing 'targets', and whilst some development is welcome, there is not the local infrastructure to support such large numbers of dwellings, and crucial infrastructure elements such as water resources and waste water treatment historically lag behind approved developments.

5. It is known that East Kent is 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 if a Broad Oak reservoir is built, Southern Water have previously estimated that it would be 10-15 years from start of build to be an effective water resource.

6. Sewage and waste-water treatment facilities cannot presently 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. The level of pollution of beaches, rivers, and the Stodmarsh Nature Reserve is well known to be critical and can only get worse. Sending lorries to collect sewage does not fundamentally help with its ultimate disposal – it is a sticking plaster solution to cover a gaping wound.

7. I am fundamentally opposed to the Eastern Movement Corridor. The proposed route will destroy irreplaceable areas of ancient woodland, green areas, footpaths and adversely affect the Stour Valley corridor. Biodiversity and species will be affected in the important ecological sites along and adjacent to the route. As a retired biologist and entomologist, I can guarantee that the SSSIs which surround us and lie in the path of this corridor will be adversely and dramatically affected.

8. I am opposed to the proposed Zoning in such a small city as Canterbury. It is unworkable and will restrict residents' freedom of movement. It will mean residents have to travel further to get from A to B. and will effectively bar the city centre shops from large swathes of its urban areas This will be particularly difficult for the elderly, disabled, and families with young children. Whilst a reduction in pollution from traffic in the city is welcome, this could be certainly be achieved in other ways and with more imaginative proposals.



9. 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 very circuitous route, meaning MORE congestion and air pollution.

10. We have lived in Fordwich for nearly [REDACTED] years, and we are passionate about the preservation/conservation of our historic “smallest town in the entire UK”. We believe strongly that the proposals in the Draft Local Plan will not only effectively destroy our historic town but even more sadly, the character of Canterbury as well.

11. Canterbury is a wonderful, 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 one more sprawling 21<sup>st</sup> Century urban metropolis. It will become unattractive, less accessible and disorganised with large estates on the outskirts, and yet more roads to serve them – this process has already started, and the Eastern Movement Corridor will only exacerbate Canterbury’s decline.

12. The city centre is effectively being strangled by wholesale high street closures and pedestrian zones, and a quite disproportionate number of Student Halls of Residence and other buildings linked to the needs of the numerous further education organisations. When we first moved to the area we used to shop in Canterbury Centre about twice a week, which used to be a pleasure – now it’s only once a month, and we have to say it has now become a chore to avoid.

13. A huge and dominant expansion of student accommodation will still be needed in the city centre to satisfy the demands of the many colleges, and zoning restrictions will ensure an even less accessible centre. What used to be a vibrant city centre enjoyed by residents of the countryside and urban areas surrounding has already become an essentially barren and sterile area.

14. In their wisdom[?] CCC has already shut the Sturry Park and Ride, [oddly and mystifyingly until July 2024], when it ought to be mandating bus companies to provide more and better buses, *especially* electric buses to help in enforcing a Low Emissions Zone (ULEZ) for the city. It is understood that Wincheap Park and Ride will also close shortly.



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 (NOT!) with many other of their projects to date.

15. Fordwich already feels like an isolated outpost and an island in a sea of new housing developments like those at Hersden, Calcot Hill, Sturry, Old Park Barracks and numerous other developments yet to be commenced. On the one hand Canterbury is being used as a convenient site for relocation of the overpopulated areas of East London, and on the other as a place for luxurious new houses of "executive" quality - most of them *starting* at around £0.5 million each.

The plethora of new "executive" developments already encircling our small town give most of the residents of Fordwich the feeling that we are being "surrounded" and already contribute to a very significant increase in traffic movements through our "Rat Run" High Street, which will now be spread over much longer periods of the working day.

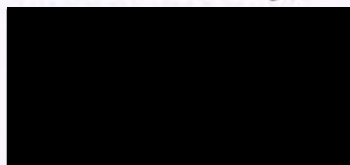
Many Fordwich residents, especially our friends and fellow neighbours here, privately discuss these changes yet seem powerless to have any influence over them. We do often wonder where the people who purchase these superb new "executive homes" actually *work*, however, because we cannot believe that 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?

.....and last but most definitely NOT least:

16. The cost of the Eastern Corridor road will be astronomical, prohibitive and a waste of scarce resources. Who will bear the cost of this "Grand Folly"?????? Naturally, the burden will fall to Canterbury Council Tax payers.

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

Yours faithfully,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

Anthony D.Hurst