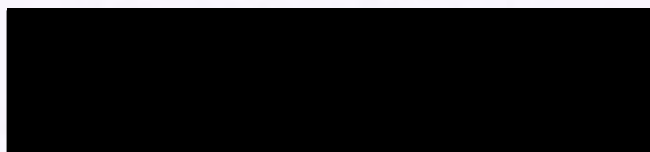
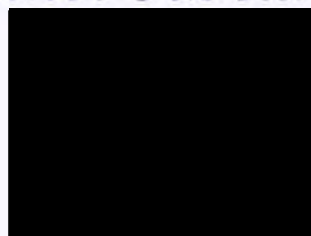


*Janet A. Hurst*



Canterbury City Council,  
Planning Department  
Military Road  
CANTERBURY

16<sup>th</sup> January 2023

### Objections to Canterbury District Local Plan to 2045

Dear Sirs,

I refer to your draft Local Plan to 2045 about which my husband has already written to you. I endorse his criticisms and have the following added comments and specific objections, in particular for the so-called "Eastern Movement Corridor" road and how it will dramatically affect us as residents of Fordwich:

1. There seems to have been allocated little time for the wishes of Fordwich residents to study and reply to the very long and complicated document in the plan, 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 unlike other parishes), the period for commenting by letter or email has been extended to today, 16<sup>th</sup> January.

2. 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. We have had very little time to locally discuss, amend or agree to the complex plan before its publication, and to specifically address plans for the "Eastern Movement Corridor" which affects Fordwich in particular.

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



4. I am categorically 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, such as water resources and waste water treatment. The latter always seem historically to 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 take 10-15 years from start of build to be an effective water resource.

6. Sewage and waste-water treatment infrastructure and 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 trucks daily to collect sewage does not fundamentally help with its ultimate disposal – it simply adds yet more costs.

7. 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. Biodiversity and species such as Newts etc etc will be affected in the important ecological sites along and adjacent to the route. 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.

8. I am also 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 certainly be achieved in other ways and with more imaginative proposals.



9. We have lived in Fordwich for nearly [REDACTED] years, and we love living here in our historic "smallest town in the England".despite traffic problems. We believe strongly 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 21<sup>st</sup> Century unattractive and inaccessible disorganised urban metropolis with large estates on the outskirts, and yet more roads to serve them. This process has already begun, and the proposed "Eastern Movement Corridor" will only accelerate Canterbury's decline as a major tourism hub..

11. 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 I used to shop in Canterbury Centre about twice week, which was a pleasure – now it's only once a month, and I have to say it has now become a place to avoid. Over the past few years we have seen a huge increase in student accommodation and more will still be needed in the city centre to satisfy the demands of the many colleges. This will mean an even less accessible centre. What used to be a vibrant city centre for residents of all the countryside and urban areas surrounding the city has already become an essentially barren and sterile area.

12. 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. Fordwich already feels like an isolated outpost with no bus services

13. We are in the middle 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, it seems to us that the Canterbury area is being used as a convenient site for relocation of the overpopulated areas of East London, yet 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 these new "executive" developments already very close to our small town give most of the residents of Fordwich the feeling that we are being "surrounded": they have already contributed to a very significant increase in traffic movements through Fordwich High Street (our well-known "Rat Run") and as a consequence this would now be spread over much longer periods of the working day.

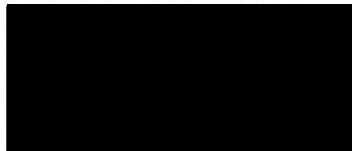
Many Fordwich residents, especially our friends and fellow neighbours here, privately discuss these changes yet seem powerless to have any influence over them. We all wonder where the people who purchase these superb new "executive homes" actually *work*, however, because we cannot believe that there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

Finally:

14. 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 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 redacting the signature of Janet A. Hurst.

**Janet A.Hurst**