



CCC Consultations <consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>

Local Plan consultation

Richard Hansell Knott [REDACTED]
To: CCC Consultations <consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>

27 January 2023 at 18:37

Dear Victoria

Many Thanks for your email, and extension. Please find below my consultation feedback.

To whomever it may concern :

There is much that is good in the Draft Local Plan, but I have several concerns with various aspects of it.

Firstly, with reference to the Open Space Strategy /Biodiversity policy : There is much that is good about the Open Space Strategy, but Old Park is conspicuous by its absence. I believe that Old Park & Chequers Wood should be part of a flagship nature reserve, consisting of the Site of Special Scientific Interest, the Sturry Road Community Park, the Golf Course, Legacy Park, Timpson Wood and Realm Wood. All of these sites could be brought together to create the largest and most ecologically valuable area of semi-natural open space on the edge of Canterbury..

To really implement the council's strategy as set out in SS1 and 2, these sites could-and should- be managed as one entity for biodiversity and the wellbeing of people. It should be connected to the Fordwich Meadows and the Westbere and Stodmarsh wetlands and form an integral part of a future Local Nature Recovery Network.

I strongly disagree with the mooted Eastern movement bypass and I have commented at length on this in my (incomplete) Survey Questionnaire.

With reference to the Traffic Management Strategy:

I applaud the Council's suggestion to improve public transport, but I don't think it goes far enough : there should definitely be more buses if we are to get people out of their cars, but the question of congestion still remains.. : what about Trams, which have been employed so successfully in cities such as Manchester? A much greener alternative.

The idea of traffic Zones in Canterbury I strongly disagree with: given how spread across, and often in opposite sides of the city, many vital retail outlets are (tk max, the industrial units and trade warehouses at Wincheap etc) the result will be excessive car and diesel van journeys covering many more miles to avoid the zones, and so would have the reverse effect of what's intended, and significantly contribute to emissions.

It is not a sustainable solution.

In villages surrounding Canterbury we rely on our cars, particularly in winter.

I note there is a big emphasis on getting people to cycle, but this is not a practical solution for those coming into the City from outlying settlements: usually these journeys involve picking up sometimes heavy goods, or other people.

The traffic management policy therefore needs much more consideration and consultation.

Lastly, I would like to address the housing policies outlined. :

With regard to further housing proposed near the Polo Farm off the A257, and at Stodmarsh, and Littlebourne, the sewage and drainage systems are already under strain and will be overloaded. Much of the wastewater drains into the Stodmarsh waterways SSSI, and the Little Stour, a

precious chalk-stream. There is evidence that new developments will pose a significant threat to the health of these important waterways and nature reserve.

Traffic congestion at peak times on this road is already a problem and will only get worse.

- I also strongly object to building on farmland when the amount of farmland needed for a sustainable future and an expanding population will not be adequate to meet the Council and the UK's sustainable objectives.

These housing proposals are not in keeping with the stated objective of preserving the unique and historic rural character of these settlements.

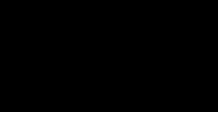
Both in the density proposed, and the quality of architecture in evidence at most new developments observed locally, w

I believe there are more Brownfield sites, and currently unused buildings, that need to be considered for redevelopment.

Thank you for considering this feedback.

Yours sincerely

Richard Knott



[Quoted text hidden]