

From: Sandra Cook [REDACTED]

Sent: 12 September 2025 11:41

To: Consultations <Consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Proposal for additional vehicle rest area

My comments refer to the Canterbury City Council - Draft Canterbury District Local Plan - focused consultation September 2025.

The point I am referring to is 2.67

As a couple who own a property near to the site for a proposed extension for lorry parking on the A2 we wanted to pass on our thoughts and concerns.

There are 24 properties in Ropersole Park and alongside the adjoining Coopers Court and Honda motorcycle site, which has I believe a residential part, this should surely be considered a residential area, would you consider allowing an increase in lorry parking near any other residential area.

The layby that is currently used by a number of lorries creates a huge amount of rubbish which I appreciate is now cleared regularly by Canterbury City Council, but no sooner has their truck left and the layby is once again left with overflowing bins and dumped rubbish. Additionally with no toilet facilities in the layby there is also human waste left. All of this will only increase if the site is extended.

Currently noise from the lorries parked there is minimal as the trees on the edge of the layby I guess help reduce this but extending the park further and nearer to the properties would make noise and light pollution unacceptable.

A couple of weeks ago there was a fire started we believe by a lorry driver. The fire brigade were called and said it was a mattress and bedding that was burning and if they hadn't been called would likely have spread into the adjoining woods and fields and have put all of these properties at risk. A couple of years ago when the gates to Ropersole Park weren't working a man came walking into the park in the middle of the night shouting and brandishing a knife. These sort of instances are likely to increase if the site is extended and more lorries are parking there. We have also had camper vans with people living in the layby for weeks on end and regularly spot suspicious activity with young men being either collected from the layby or dropped off there, we do report any suspicious activity to the non emergency police line, but again extending the site just means more opportunity for all of the above.

Currently the area that is being proposed for this extension is waste ground that has been left for nature to thrive, it is a haven for a variety of butterfly and bird species and I'm sure

other insects and small mammals must enjoy living there. It would be lovely if it could just be left as an area of green space.

Living in Kent, especially near to Dover, we have to put up with a lot of issues from the huge amount of lorry traffic. Rubbish and bottles of urine alongside the roads, not being able to get to elderly relatives living in Capel le Ferne many times during the year, damage to the road surfaces, dangerous driving from tired and distracted drivers, all of which we have to accept are but this proposal is totally unreasonable and I would urge you all to reconsider and remove this from the Local Plan.

In addition we would ask CCC to consider placing larger bins on the layby to accommodate the rubbish left there along with installing cctv to deter the dumping of rubbish and antisocial behaviour.

With best wishes

Martin and Sandra Cook