
Objection Email

From Sadie Harris [REDACTED]
Date Sat 20/09/2025 14:20
To Consultations <Consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>

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From: Sarah Harris, [REDACTED]
To: consultations@canterbury.gov.uk

Date:

For the attention of the Consultations Team

Re: Objection to Proposed Lorry Park Development Near Ropersole

I am writing to formally object to the proposed development of the layby at Ropersole to be expanded to allow up to 20 HGV parking spaces. As a local resident, I am deeply concerned about the negative impact this facility could have on me, my community and the environment.

My concerns include:

1. Noise Pollution

The constant movement of heavy goods vehicles, especially during early mornings and late nights, will significantly disrupt the peace and quiet of our residential area. This is likely to affect sleep, wellbeing, and overall quality of life for nearby residents.

2. Environmental Impact

The development poses a threat to local wildlife and green spaces. With 20 or so HGVs there will be increased emissions, surface runoff, and potential fuel or oil spills which could harm the surrounding ecosystem and reduce the natural beauty of the area.

3. Litter and Cleanliness

There is no clear plan or reassurance that the site will be regularly maintained. Highways England cannot keep on top of the current rubbish in the layby and therefore there has been an increase in vermin. We wouldn't hold out much hope of them improving their cleaning. Unfortunately I would also be concerned about urine and faeces pollution too. More "orange" bottles is not what we want in our neighbourhood. As there are no washing facilities we assume no toilet facilities.

4. Traffic and Access Issues

The access road to the proposed site is already under strain. Additional HGV traffic could lead to congestion, blocked routes, and increased risk of accidents. As a dedicated HGV space would HGV drivers anticipate local resident cars using that space as well as motorbikes using the nearby Honda shop/café. Potholes in the lay-by have been repaired relatively recently but there are still craters on either side.

Additionally – Ropersole Park requested some years ago for the council to include a Bus Stop in the lay-by, this was rejected on the basis that the bus would have trouble coming out of the lay-by, if a bus has trouble then surely a HGV would. There should be consistency on how the council grant permissions.

I am aware that truck drivers have in the past set up their own barbecues in the lay-by, on at least one occasion this caused a fire.

I don't believe by moving the problem from one part of Canterbury to another actually solves the problem, it only encourages more HGVs to use the A2 as a route, whereby during Operation Brock HGVs are encouraged/forced to use the M20.

Whilst I appreciate drivers need to stop for a rest I do believe that this proposed location poses more harm than good and therefore I object to the proposal.

I therefore respectfully urge the planning committee to reconsider this proposal and explore alternative locations that are more suitable for such a development, away from residential communities.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns. I would appreciate confirmation that my objection has been received.