
Objection to Proposed Development of Thanington Rec (Policy N3)

From Jack Ferris [REDACTED]
Date Mon 22/09/2025 19:13
To Consultations <Consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>

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Dear Canterbury City Council,

I am writing to strongly object to the proposed development of Thanington Recreation Ground into a 900-space Park & Ride.

This plan would cause significant and irreversible harm to our community for the following reasons:

1. Loss of vital community green space

- Thanington Rec is the only dedicated green space available to local residents.
- It provides a safe and accessible place for children to play, families to meet, and people of all ages to socialise and exercise.
- Removing this facility would disproportionately impact families, young people, and those without easy access to private gardens.

2. Negative impacts on health and wellbeing

- The Rec is a vital resource for dog walkers, sports activities, and everyday exercise.
- Access to local green spaces is directly linked to improved mental and physical health. Taking this away would worsen wellbeing outcomes for the community.

3. Environmental damage

- The site contains over 100 mature trees that support local biodiversity and improve air quality. Their loss would be devastating.
- A car park will increase traffic and pollution, worsening local air quality at a time when the council should be working towards its climate commitments.

4. Harm to community services

- The Resource Centre, which delivers vital local services, depends on its current environment and accessibility. Development would jeopardise this.

5. Better alternatives already exist

- In 2008, independent consultants rejected this same proposal and instead recommended a multistorey car park at Wincheap.
- That advice remains the most sensible option today: it meets transport needs without destroying a unique and irreplaceable community space.

I support improved transport solutions for Canterbury. However, these must not come at the expense of destroying Thanington Rec, which is central to our community's wellbeing and environment.

I urge the Council to reconsider this plan and pursue alternatives, such as the Wincheap multistorey option, that meet transport needs without sacrificing our last remaining community green space.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Ferris

