



Thanington Recreation Ground

From Bryan Cutting [REDACTED]
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To Consultations <Consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>

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I feel that I must register my disapproval of the plans to turn Thanington Recreation Ground into a Park and Ride.

I believe that the reason for this move is the loss of approximately 100 spaces at the existing Park and Ride when the new slip road is built.

From my observations when I walk past the existing Park and Ride – which I do on a regular basis – there are always plenty of empty spaces and the site is never full; which leads one to ask why the site needs to be relocated?

In various Canterbury City Council papers i.e. Open Space Strategy, Thanington Recreation Ground is described as a 'Protected Open Space' and Thanington is referenced as an 'area having a shortfall across all open space types'.

To consider removing the only open space in the area is nothing short of scandalous!

This is the only open, green space in Thanington where people can meet, walk their dogs, play games and generally enjoy the open area thus improving their mental and physical health.

If you deny the younger adults, teenagers a safe, secure place to meet, you will be sending them back onto the streets with the likelihood of increasing anti-social behaviour.

I believe that it has been stated that once this space has been destroyed, then there will be an area at the new Merton Park where local people and children can go to recreate.

To even consider sending children on a 40-50 minute walk along busy thoroughfares to have a game of football or the like is utterly ludicrous and beggars belief that any sensible person could come up with such an idea.

Then there is the problem of traffic flow.

Thanington Road and Ashford Road are already clogged with traffic, which at certain times of the day is at a standstill.

To have to provide access for buses and cars into the new Park and Ride is going to create yet another pinch point, which in turn will add to the traffic flow problems and then decrease air quality even further. This will inevitably increase the probability of health problems for the local population.

I believe that Thanington Recreation Ground is not a suitable alternative and that a new Park and Ride should either be built within the Thanington Park development or placed further out of town past Milton Bridge.

Yours Sincerely
Bryan Cutting