

Tom Hawkes

From: Charlotte MacCaul [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 September 2025 13:47
To: Consultations
Subject: Draft Local Plan, Policy N3

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Dear Sirs,

I am writing, as a local resident, to object to the Local Plan policy regarding the relocation of the Park and Ride at Wincheap, including changes to traffic plans.

Firstly, consider the impact on the Thanington community. The loss of the ground will mean that the last local green space will be lost forever and will become a concrete white elephant blighting the local area with no benefit to any of us.

Where will our children and young people go to enjoy a safe place where they can play and socialise? At the moment we also have a playground for able bodied and disabled children, a skate board park, 5-s-side football pitch and a shelter for teenagers to gather together. All these will be affected by the Park and Ride traffic in terms of safety, air pollution and enjoyment.

Most of our residents use the recreation ground, especially dog walkers, runners or those who just want to sit and enjoy the peace that such a space gives. And where will the mums and dads go with the toddlers? There are many flats in Thanington.

Where in the draft plan is consideration of the Council's own open space policy or the Localism Act of 2011? But, within the draft plan, how does this proposed action contribute to a thriving environment and healthy communities? How does this square with the fact that Thanington is still in the top 10% most deprived areas of the UK? The Thanington Resource Centre still has a food bank which many residents still rely on. They also come to the Centre for advice and support.

The Cocking Road development of over 1,000 homes will only increase the need for the Thanington recreation ground to remain as is, and it will definitely increase the traffic on an already congested A28. When can you, even now, get under the railway bridge without joining the queue in front of you?

How often is the queue back to Milton roundabout? Every day is the answer. You cannot not be aware of this.

What consideration has been given to the impact the draft plan will have on the Thanington Neighbourhood Resource Centre? Have you taken into account its sterling work to make Thanington

a better, safer and enjoyable place to live? Have you forgotten (or choose to ignore) the crime and disorder of 25 years ago? I speak with experience since I was the Wincheap councillor delegated to be part of the steering group to build the Centre (with EU money, not the City Council's). At that time I was also Chair of the After School Club in the old wooden building that was demolished to make way for the onslip road to the A2. I am, therefore, well aware of the problems caused by disadvantage and poverty. And these problems still exist in Thanington today.

All this comes back to the faults in the plan regarding the offslip off the A2 onto the A28. How can such a scheme be viable or justified which takes traffic from a dual carriageway and puts it onto a single one and into a conservation area? Wincheap, after all, is the Wincheap of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. Consider, also, the number of traffic lights already in place to get to (and past) the Wincheap industrial estate. And all of this to get to a park and ride site within walking distance of the City centre. Other solutions are available and should be re-examined. And, of course, should you proceed with this hare brained scheme, you can easily turn the present park and ride site into a multi-storey carpark, as they do at airports which minimises costs and avoids using green spaces.

I write this objection not just as a local resident but also as an ex-Councillor, trustee of the Resource Centre and volunteer and ignoring objections to this dreadful and ill-conceived plan will disadvantage not just the present people living in Thanington but also future generations. Thanington will never forgive you (and neither will I) if you do not understand the dire consequences if you go ahead with this scheme. We demand to be heard and listened to. Remember we also pay taxes but by and large we do not appear to be listened to. Is this because we are a disadvantaged community and can be ignored?

I await your response.

Yours truly, Charlotte MacCaul (Mrs)

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