
Objection to Proposed Relocation of Wincheap Park & Ride to Thanington Recreation Ground

From Ian Wilson [REDACTED]
Date Tue 30/09/2025 10:19
To Consultations <Consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>
Cc [REDACTED]

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Dear Sirs,

I write this letter to lodge my objection to the proposal to relocate the Wincheap Park and Ride car park to Thanington Recreation Ground, and ask that you reject the proposal. My objection is based on several points:

Firstly, the recreational ground is the only green space in Thanington, and is a popular destination for the local residents for leisure activities. The proposed Merton Park sports is not an equivalent local replacement, being 1.9 miles away equivalent to a walk of over 40 minutes. It is also a specialist sports facility rather than an informal open space, so is not a like for like replacement and unsuitable for activities such as dog walking, child's play, kite flying, picnics or enjoying the peace by sitting on the river bank. I believe that the Council's Open Space Strategy 2025-2040 already identifies Thanington as being deficient in open space and actually commits to protecting existing recreational grounds. The Strategic Land Availability Assessment has already identified Thanington Recreation Ground as being an unsuitable location for the car park.

Secondly, I've attached a flyer that Pentland Properties distributed at the time of seeking planning permission for the Thanington Park development. As you can see, what was promised is very different from what was delivered. A Park and Ride service was promised, as were new sports pitches and a community centre. Thanington residents have already suffered years of disruption and the loss of open space in exchange for broken promises. To turn the recreational ground in to a car park would compound the damage and lack of respect done to existing residents when the council failed to hold Pentland Properties to their original plans.

Thirdly, if you go to the recreational ground you see many molehills and signs of wild rabbits. This wildlife has been in Thanington long before any council members or residents were born, and to turn the recreational ground in to a car park would destroy the wildlife's natural habitat.

Finally, an unintended consequence of the plan would be to make the Thanington Resource Centre unviable. It would not be able to continue to operate with the construction noise and disruption. This charitable organisation has played a vital role in improving Thanington, helping to reduce crime, and provide a hub for the local community. It also operates as a food bank, youth club and safe space for residents. To take this away from the local community, and take jobs from the staff, would be to hit those most in need, the very people that the council is supposed to help and support.

I implore you to look at other options for the Park and Ride car park and not destroy a vital part of the local community. As Joni Mitchell said "they paved paradise and put up a parking lot", please don't make the same mistake.

Yours faithfully

Ian Wilson



Reasons to Support Thanington Park...

Over 900 new jobs including a business park, with job opportunities for local people

Upgrades to local roads, improving traffic flow to the city centre.

New allotments enabling local people to grow their own

A new Park & Ride with fast buses into town and free bus passes for local residents for the 1st year

A new Primary School for Thanington

A new purpose built hospice for Pilgrims Hospices

A new community centre with meeting and function rooms

A new park with play areas for local kids

225 new homes for families on the Councils waiting list

A new nursing home

New wildlife corridor around the whole southern boundary

New sports pitches plus a dedicated cricket pitch with a pavilion

Illustrative Masterplan

Pentland Properties Ltd

The Tory Family Foundation

Pentland Properties

Quinn Estates

Pilgrims Hospices

for more information visit www.thaningtonpark.co.uk

...and all at no cost to Council Tax Payers