
Objection to Proposed Development on Thanington Rec

From Sophie Lauren [REDACTED]
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To Consultations <Consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to object to the proposed plan to concrete over Thanington Recreation Ground for a Park & Ride. This development would permanently destroy the only community green space in our area, and I urge the council to reject it.

What we will lose if this goes ahead:

- Our only green space: The Rec is the only safe, open space for children to play, families to meet, and neighbours to walk dogs. Removing it leaves our community with no alternative.
- Sports facilities: Local football pitches used by young people and community groups would be cut off, damaging access to exercise and outdoor activities.
- Community wellbeing: Green spaces are proven to support mental and physical health. Taking away this resource will harm everyone, especially children and vulnerable residents.
- Air quality: More traffic means more fumes in a residential area where children and elderly people live. This is unacceptable at a time when tackling air pollution should be a priority.

Other major concerns:

- Over 100 mature trees would be lost, reducing clean air, shade, and biodiversity.
- Expert consultants already rejected this site for a Park & Ride back in 2008, yet their advice is now being ignored.
- The council has provided no clear plan explaining how this scheme would work, how much it will cost, or its real impact on traffic.
- Increased traffic and reduced green space will negatively affect the Thanington Neighbourhood Resource Centre, reducing income and threatening vital services.

An alternative exists:

We support better transport solutions, but not at the cost of destroying our only park. A multistorey car park and re-designed slip road at Wincheap would meet transport needs without concreting over a vital green space.

I urge the council to protect Thanington Rec for future generations. This space is essential for health, wellbeing, and community life. Please do not allow it to be destroyed for a development that offers no clear long-term benefit.

Yours sincerely,

Sophie Burden

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sophie Lauren Bryant