

30 September, 2025

The Consultation Team,
Canterbury City Council,
14 Rose Lane,
Canterbury, Kent.

THANINGTON RECREATION GROUND / PARK AND RIDE CAR PARK

We have read the reports that the Council is to consider the proposal to convert the Thanington Recreation Ground into a Park and Ride car park.

Firstly We are appalled at the idea that this proposal would even be entertained for many reasons.

- 1) The Recreation Ground has been enjoyed for many years. Even though our family do not live in the immediate area, our children, and their friends, have played games and enjoyed the use of the rec. and walk their dogs and share fond memories. The Recreation field is such an important open space for the community, which together with the Resource Centre give support, provide amenities and help maintain good relations with the community which in part is a deprived area. There will be a loss of jobs and income to support the community.
- 2) The local residents would be subjected to noise and air pollution.
- 3) The impact of development on this site would cause irreparable damage to the area. The trees, if they survived the impact, would be damaged and the wildlife associated with this area would diminish. Any run-off of water/oil from the car park would potentially contaminate the river.
- 4) There are so many factors to take into account when considering this application. Surely it would be more sensible to use the existing park and ride and put a two-storey car park there, or preferably move the entire site further out onto brown field land or to an unused industrial estate site.
- 5) We also understand that there would be provision made at the Merton Park Sports Hub. This would be completely impracticable for Thanington residents - quite a distance for youngsters and certainly not to walk on their own!! Also it seems that the car park would be built some time before Merton Park would be available (if ever!)
- 6) Generations of children and adults would be denied access to a suitable open space and lose their local hall for events! This would be an irreversible decision.

We would ask that the Committee refuse this application to allow the Recreation Ground and the Resource Centre to continue to enable the local residents peace of mind and a place for them to socialise and find assistance if required.


Mrs. Clair Marsh


Mr. Eric Marsh

Email copies sent to: Cllr Dane Buckman, Cllr Allan Baldock, Cllr Mike Sole, Cllr Mel Dawkins,
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