

Policy N3 - Proposal to Replace Wincheap Park and Ride

I am not a resident of Thanington but have for many years been involved with Thanington Resource Centre via my involvement with the local Lions Club.

I believe this proposal to resite the current Park & Ride is ill conceived due to the proposal to install a New In Slip Road through the current Park & Ride in Wincheap Business Park.

1 - It will increase the traffic flow to the A28 Canterbury to Ashford Road with left hand traffic turning towards Canterbury on an already congested road. This is a well known problem by both local residents and the CCC as there was a proposal to reroute traffic through the business park and make the A28 a one way street.

2 – It will increase the traffic flow to the A28 Canterbury to Ashford Road with right hand traffic turning towards Ashford on an already congested road which is a well known problem both locally and by the CCC due the series of traffic lights towards Ashford and to OFF slip road to the London bound carriageway on A2.

3 – The proposed re siting of the Wincheap Park & Ride at the Thanington Resource Centre will add to the problem as there will be a need to cross the A28 from the Ashford bound lane across the Canterbury bound lane to gain access to the proposal and visa versa when leaving the proposal.

Thanington Resource Centre is the hub for the whole to Thanington area. It is open 12 hour days 6 day a week, 360 day operation helping the local community as a social club which holds a range of community events for all the families old and young, a youth club which provides a safe space for young residents and even a food bank. The centre is known for its excellence in all its work with local community and how they have created jobs, training and skills for many local people through their very successful apprenticeship scheme. It is through this scheme the Lions Club have got involved providing work experience and giving a bursary to the outstanding boy and girl who are chosen by the staff and the young people. Over the past 25 years Thanington Estate has gone from a sink estate with a no go area by the police and the local bus service to a great community with pride in their area and this has been recognised internationally for all the work that has gone in to it to make this happen. This is all achieved not with CCC or KCC grants or foundations but by renting out rooms for training and meetings making them entirely independent and should be celebrated not destroyed by this proposal. This could all be lost with all proposed works for the park and ride making difficult to hire their services. To stop this happening CCC could cover the Resource Centres costs which go some way to placate the problem

According to your own wording on this proposed site “While the site is identified as unsuitable in the SLAA due to being within a protected area of Existing Open Space”, you chose to ignore that and go ahead with the proposed 900 vehicle park & ride. As part of a “mitigation strategy by CCC, it is expected that a full size football pitch could be retained as an interim measure on the Thanington Recreation Ground site, ahead of the full re-provision as part of the New Sports Hub at Merton Park”. Currently the residents of Thanington have use to this green space with young children being able to run around play ball games, breathe fresh air, have picnics, summer fairs etc.

with the "As and when" being currently available children who would like to go to the park and the parents know their children will be safe because the Resource Centre is there. With the CCC proposal of having a "Sport Hub" at Merton for Canterbury Rugby and Football Club and Canterbury City Football Club sounds fine it does nothing for the people of Thanington as it's a car ride or protracted public transport journey. It does not allow for spontaneous actions to the park by just crossing the road.

This proposal of 900 vehicle parking places without any changes would give 1800 extra traffic movements each day plus a park and ride bus every 8 minutes equates to a further 7.5 bus movements per hour. Based on the frequency of the bus service I conclude that the traffic movements would be far greater than the 1800 I stated for the full car park capacity. I assume that the present park and ride has had studies done on capacity usage of the site and traffic flow counts and these studies have been used to calculate the number places at Thanington. I also assume that a traffic survey has been done at the Harbledown Junction with A2 and a calculated reduction in this traffic flow is transferred to the new Wincheap Junction and these figures would be available to the public. This is not allowing for any new road system increasing traffic numbers There is a major difference with these two junctions Harbledown is into a two lane system via Rheims Way which spreads the traffic flow whereas Wincheap is divided single flow right or left on to a busy road system with multitude of traffic signals and flows.

To me there is too much against this proposal (a) the Traffic Management (b) the loss of protected green space (c) the loss by the residents of Thanington of the use of the open space (d) loss of income for Thanington Resource Centre (e) Possible loss of Thanington Resource Centre and all the good works that it does for the community (f) the loss of the hub that helped to form Thanington Community because without it what brings everybody together.

Thank you for taking time to read this. These are my personal views as I read the situation. I understand that this is all bought about by the bad planning and traffic management when New A2 Bye Pass was built to put only 3 slip roads not 4 to save money

Mr Mike Shaw

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