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From: James King [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 October 2025 21:21
To: Consultations
Subject: Objection to turning Thanington recreation ground into park and ride

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OBJECTION TO TURNING THANINGTON RECREATION GROUND INTO PARK AND RIDE:

Dear Canterbury Councillors,

I want to make you aware that we object to the proposal to build a 900 parking space park and ride over the recreation ground in Thanington. The reasons for our objections can be grouped into 3 categories: negative consequences, alternatives and inequality. We also need to make it clear that if push comes to shove, then we would rather not have a new slip road built at Wincheap and keep the Thanington recreation ground; instead of losing the Thanington recreation ground to build a slip road in Wincheap.

The main reason we object to building a 900 space park and ride car park over Thanington recreation ground is due to the consequences of this. The field is currently used by and accommodates multiple groups of people and clubs including ourselves for a range of recreational activities. The proposed park and ride car park plan that I can see online would only leave a very small sports pitch which would not be large enough to accommodate all of the different groups and clubs - especially if multiple groups or clubs want to use it at the same time. If the use ability of the Thanington recreation ground is reduced then a lot of people will no longer be able to use it at convenient times which will cause a decline in the physical and mental health of multiple groups and clubs in both Thanington and Wincheap who use the Thanington recreation ground (which contains the only playing fields and properly open green area in Thanington or Wincheap). The size of the proposed park and ride car park is also excessive in size as the current Wincheap Park and Ride (which takes up a lot of space) has 600 parking spaces, however the proposal would build a 900 parking space (150% the size of the park and ride at Wincheap) over the Wincheap recreation ground. The sheer size of the proposed park and ride would not only ruin the Thanington recreation ground; it would deliberately cover over an excessive amount of the recreation ground due to the proposed park a s bride's excessive size compared to the existing park and ride in Wincheap. The buses and increase in vehicle traffic right next to the remnants of the recreation ground, the children's play area, community building, children's bike track and skate park will also pose a safety risk to young (and older) children using the children's facilities there as it increases the likelihood of a car, van or bus driver crashing into a child entering or leaving the facilities a lot. I have personally witnessed an old man run someone over who was crossing the road, and I have lived on a road where a driver crashed into a young child who was crossing the road and the child had to be air ambulance to a London Hospital for emergency care and has lifelong damage since. Another negative consequence of the proposed park and ride car park being built would be the increased vehicle traffic in Thanington and Wincheap. If you build a new slip road at Wincheap we all know that more drivers (who do not intend to use Canterbury's buses) would be exiting the A2 at Wincheap which would add even more car traffic to the already over crowded Thanington/ Wincheap Road which is already too narrow and not fit to cope with the amount of traffic that is currently using it. The negative consequences of the proposed 900 space park and ride would

be the mental and physical health of people in Thanington and Wincheap declining; significantly increased risk of young (and older) children getting hit or run over by vehicles; an excessive amount of the recreation ground being lost; as well as further overcrowding on the already overcrowded road network in Thanington and Wincheap.

The second reason we object to the proposed park and ride on top of Thanington recreation ground is due to the availability of other sites around Canterbury that would be a lot more suitable (and have a much less negative impact) than losing Thanington recreation ground (which is the only open green area in Thanington and Wincheap). One better site for building a new park and ride car park is the fields to the West of Harbledown (and South of Rough Common). They are a better site as there are multiple green spaces in that area of Canterbury that will still exist and be able to be used by the people that live there even after the construction of a park and ride there. Another bonus of this proposal is that traffic coming from the north-West on the A2 can already enter and exit Canterbury at that junction on the A2 (you would not even need to pay to build a new slip road). A second more appropriate site is building an off slip road just to the east of Nackington Road that can be built across fields to join straight onto the New Dover Road Park and ride. With this proposal you also have the option of extending the size of the New Dover Road Park and ride. An added bonus of this is that you would only need to supply buses to New Dover Road Park and ride instead of supplying buses to Thanington/Wincheap as well - which will save the council money that can be spent on other services to benefit the lives of people and business in Canterbury. One better site to build a park and ride is on fields to the west of Harbledown, whilst building a slip road near Nackington Road would provide the added benefit of saving the council money in the long term.

A third reason we oppose the proposal to build a park and ride over Thanington recreation ground is due to inequality. A lot of people in Thanington and Wincheap have been explaining that a past plan to build the park and ride at Harbledown was only rejected due to some of the people that live there being part of the 'right social circles' who have the power and influence to make the changes they want to see happen. This viewpoint suggests that a key reason why Thanington recreation ground is being threatened with being turned into a 900 space park and ride car park is due to Thanington being a poorer and less affluent neighbourhood than the wealthier and better socially connected people that live in Harbledown. If this is true then it is morally and ethically wrong that the people that live in Thanington and Wincheap are under threat of losing their only open green space just because some of the 'socially well connected' people that live in Harbledown and Rough Common do not want to have a park and ride car park built on one of the many fields near them (if you look at Google Maps you can see the difference between their amount of green space compared to the 1 open green space (Thanington recreation ground) in both Thanington and Wincheap.

Please can you let us know that you have received and considered the contents of this email?

Kind regards,
James King



Accusations

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