

**Helen O'Connor**

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**From:** Sadie [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 10 October 2025 23:25  
**To:** Consultations  
**Subject:** Opposition to the Development @ Thanington Recreation Ground

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Sadie (age 30) & I am a resident of [REDACTED] in Thanington.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed development at the site of the Thanington Recreation Ground.

As a resident of over 25 years I have benefited greatly from this resource at every stage of my life, from childhood becoming a mother.

I walked my dog & played in the park with my family as a child. As a young mother then I used the field to push my newborn around in the earliest days of her life, it being the safest & most accessible place that I could let my pup run whilst I settled my baby & gave myself well needed exercise.

In the Resource Centre itself I had my 10th birthday party & so did my sister. In the park I've gotten my confidence back skateboarding & taught my daughter. Played basketball.

I know how valuable this resource is & after attending the community meeting about the proposal, I now see how I'm not alone in this feeling. Open, accessible & welcoming green spaces are the backbone of communities, providing benefits for mental, physical & spiritual health. This community in particular deserves one even more than more privileged ones. It is a strong, thriving & tight community that is prone to issues due to financial impoverishment & the Resource Centre in particular is one of the most valuable resources to combat these issues, as the improving crime statistics have shown.

There is absolute no comparable resource in the area that provides equivalent value to the community (relating to the government open spaces policy), nor would moving it elsewhere be viable. I love Hambrook Marshes as local green space, but dogs are not permitted off lead & it is a busy pathway, not an area for children to play sports or to host community events. The Ashford Road Centre is far too out of the way for daily dog walks & for children to visit independently. The suggestion of the Merton Park development is simply ridiculous. Other consideration must be made & there is no compromise that the facilities can take.

The suggestion of making the existing park & ride (which is 1/3 empty at peak use) a multi storey or moving it inside the wincheap industrial estate (which currently holds a ghastly number of unused & uncared for parking spaces) are just two options that relieve the very real need for improved transport links without harming a vulnerable community.

Please listen to the many voices in opposition to this development & don't expect it to be taken from the community without a fight.

Thanks for listening,  
Sadie Smith

