

Helen O'Connor

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 October 2025 16:48
To: Consultations
Subject: Re: Thanington Recreation Ground Plans

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I strongly object to the conversion of the Thanington Recreation Ground to the use of a Park and Ride facility and the removal of the Community Centre. My objection is on the basis of a number of factors which are detailed as follows:

1. This is an area used by many people for dog walking, providing both exercise and fresh air in a beautiful environment for dogs and owners.
2. This is a sports ground used by many people for different sports. Merton is just geographically difficult to get to without a car and excludes people without their own transport.
3. With all the housing developments in the area, there will be a need for their populations for exercise and recreation - Thanington Recreation is a provision for that.
4. Environmentally with all the vehicle activity in time their fuels car oils and hydraulic fluids will become run off into the River Stour a chalk river. The gradient of the ground is such that it will be gravitating to the lower part of the field and channelled into the Stour. Do we want this toxic mix flowing through our much visited city waterways. The increase of electric vehicle ownership must also be considered due to the potential for battery issues e.g. fires. There have been incidents of lithium ion car battery fires, one of which would not only destroy the vehicle itself but may take out vehicles parked closeby. Will the Fire Brigade be able to get vehicle access and if so, how much water would be used and where would it flow to?
5. At the moment the Recreation Ground is an area where rainfall is absorbed into the ground and will be slowly conjoined with the ground water in the soil and strata. Having this large area either tarmacked or concreted will mean rainfall will be channelled into the Stour with the potential for flooding in the area. With the advent of climate change, giving potential heavier rainfall events, this must be taken into account.
6. There are other options the Council should consider for example: having a multi-level car on the present Park and Ride; utilisation of areas within the Wincheap Industrial Estate and resiting to the Merton proposal.
7. This development will require further traffic light installation and traffic will come to a standstill.
8. This ground is an asset to the local community giving jobs, spirit, cohesion and green space. A new Park and Ride won't.

Andrew Adams
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