

From: Ian Davidson [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 October 2025 15:03
To: Consultations
Subject: Objection to plan for Thanington Recreation Ground.

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To Whom It May Concern regarding the draft local plan, extant 2025.

The plan to build a multi-storey car park on the only current open space available to the residents of Thanington Without is seriously flawed and, indeed, wrongly predicated.

- The whole scheme is predicated on the assumption that the Park and Ride scheme is essential. Evidence suggests that this is far from the case, for example, the losses at Sturry. The other two schemes have barely covered their cost and a proposal for a site at Harbledown I believe was rejected. Even if a viable economic and traffic flow benefit could be shown for the existing Park and Ride the obvious first point of consideration is the current footprint. The off slip will be single carriageway so should be sited to occupy the minimum area of the current footprint. Given the apparent current usage at Thanington then a multi-storey on the remainder of the footprint should be more than sufficient.
- One of the main justifications for the new off slip is to reduce the flow of traffic through Canterbury by providing access to the A28 and A252 and associated villages directly off the A2, rather than having to go through Harbledown and Rhodaus Road and the Wincheap roundabout. A multi-storey on the recreation ground would be entered from and exited onto Thanington Road at what is already a pinch point for traffic. It is likely that it would cause additional tail back across the A2 bridge onto Wincheap and also, likely, the proposed off slip. It would also add to the already frequent tail back along Ashford Road towards the Brett's roundabout. This point and the preceding point together should be enough to scrap the proposal as was the independent recommendation of a study in 2008.
- To consideration of the loss of amenity to the Thanington Without area. This is the only open space available to children for play and sport. The suggested alternative at a complex at Merton Park has clearly been made by planners without children. There is no manageable walkable access to the proposed area even if the proposed pedestrian tunnel under the A2 were ever to be built. Whichever route from Thanington is suggested involves entering areas of high traffic volume with potentially dangerous road crossings and narrow roads in addition to the distances for unaccompanied young children. That would mean parents having to drive their children there and back adding even more to the existing congestion at the traffic lights in the area and around the commercial premises the near Wincheap Retail Park.
- Finally, a great deal of research recently has laid out the huge benefit of having easy access to green space, especially trees. To take away the only space that meets that criterion for the Thanington Without area borders on the criminal. Insisting on an ugly grey concrete multi-storey car park whilst ignoring the above points borders on the incompetent.

Regards,

Ian Davidson. [REDACTED]