



Thanington recreation ground (N3)

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Response to consultation

I have lived in Thanington on and off for nearly 40 years. I am horrified that there is a plan to move the park and ride to the current rec. This is such an obviously bad idea i cannot believe i need to send this email.

It is the only open space in this deprived area , it is pretty much all we have

- Our children play here, we walk our dogs, play football, learn to ride bikes, run around, kick balls, fly kites, picnic, make a noise **without** causing a problem for anyone else
- If we must have more houses we need space for those children to play as well
- It helps to reduce antisocial behaviour; somewhere for children and young people to gather without causing any bother to anyone else
- the potential detrimental impact on the resource centre, a vital link in the local community , and proven to reduce antisocial behaviour locally, helping young people stay out of trouble. That 'trouble' has life long consequences and societal impacts.
- Grass roots football pitches are sorely needed
- The tenuous promise of a new piece of open land somewhere else, beyond easy walking distance of the children of Thanington is not good enough. (So many other 'benefits' have not been delivered, why would this one be any different?)
- Sports facilities at Merton Park will not be free and open to all and will not be large enough for the multitude of activities that can currently co-occur at Thanington
- The green spaces that are part of the new developments are small strips of land that you cannot kick a ball across without hitting a house, the rec has enough space for everyone
- There is a clear link between access to nature and improving mental health

Then there is the environmental impact

- Grass is pretty low in biodiversity but it is infinitely preferable to a car park
- Mature tress cannot be easily replaced and those that can be saved will now be in the middle of concrete which we know reduces the biodiversity and their health
- the impact on the river in Thanington and further along towards Stodmarsh, increasing the concrete run off of rainwater with additional pollutants from a car park
- More pollution for the residents

If we need the park and ride then there are better options

- make sure it is really needed; the current site is frequently empty and car use has changed with working from home
- build up and make the current area a multistorey
- move out along the A28 towards the garden centre , past Howfield lane

Or you could be really brave and ditch the A2 off ramp in Thanington (which is a different nightmare waiting to happen) and move the park and ride to the existing off ramp near Harbledown where there is a vast amount of green space , don't remove the only remaining green space in Thanington

These other options may be expensive but they are not as expensive as the loss of this vital, large, free, open, green space. The value of Thanington Rec is priceless to its current residents and the future children and adults of Thanington and Wincheap

Yours sincerely
Dawn Thundow

