

Tom Hawkes

From: Planning
Sent: 20 October 2025 09:44
To: Policy
Subject: Fw: Canterbury planning enquiry - form reference 1299679

From: noreply@canterbury.gov.uk <noreply@canterbury.gov.uk>
Sent: 18 October 2025 22:22
To: Planning <planning@canterbury.gov.uk>
Subject: Canterbury planning enquiry - form reference 1299679

--Email From External Account--

Form reference number: 1299679
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Page: Your message

- Your first name Jeremy
- Your last name Smith
- Your email [REDACTED]
- Your address [REDACTED]
- Your message Together with around 200 other local residents I attended a meeting 17/10 at the Scout Hall Heaton rd to learn about the proposed demolition of the orchards and agricultural land at Merton Park. As someone who lives in Heaton rd, and has been walking and cycling through the orchards for around 50 years with my grandparents and parents who worked and played on the land before me, I am shocked that such a vital biodiverse corridor between the city and the A2 would run the risk of being wiped out completely- an ecological disaster. The local area which already suffers some of the worst traffic pollution at the bottom of Hollow lane following the two other housing developments in very recent times, now faces this latest assault on this local area of beauty which allows residents of the area to spend time outside away from traffic, and the noise of the city. The infrastructure cannot withstand the building of 2000 houses, green space so valuable for health during lockdown and beyond, as people continued their health regime to this day. The traffic is dangerous as it is and the roads are not designed to take enormous volumes of site traffic and then commuter traffic with this supersize development. After the application in the wealthier area of Blean was turned down it is obvious that Merton Park would be the next in line. Once this green space, the home of over 60 endangered types of birds such as the kite, buzzard and skylark, plus hedgehogs and rare butterflies is gone, this beautiful part of Canterbury will be lost for ever to users young and old, replaced with concrete and bland housing with causing great stress and sadness to people like me whose close retirement will be blighted by the disappearance of my reason for living in the area in a house built for my grandparents. My father and grandfather and other locals built the scout hut in Heaton rd and my grandmother who was the leader of the cub scouts in the 50s 60s and 70s took countless groups to the park and orchards to learn about nature and toboggan in the snow. Later my children played there and walked to school over the fields safely. If they turn these orchards into a housing estate it will totally destroy a significant part of the identity of the Wincheap area, trample all over the memories and cultural heritage of our neighbourhood in the name of business with the profits going out of the ward. It will not benefit the current local residents in any way. Another source of local Kentish

food in the garden of England will be gone, leading to less self-sufficiency in a politically unsettled time, employment and more un-environmentally-friendly imports. The oversubscribed primary school will be overwhelmed even if they build another school, and our street will lose its mini rec. playground, so important for local people, and Heaton rd will be hemmed in by a new village instead of its current bio-diverse landscape. Options must be to reduce the number of new houses to max 50 if it has to happen, or more sensibly, revisit using the fields off Nackington rd. which were originally earmarked to build a new Girls Langton school some years ago. and would cause less harm to biodiversity.

- Do you want to upload any documents? no

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