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Hello

Thank you for this consultation and for considering the needs of current and future people living in the area.

I write as a resident of Wincheap, and someone who works in the Canterbury District and uses Thanington resource centre and the Rec grounds for work (mental health and dementia) and leisure. I accept the need for some more housing but think this needs to be in smaller amounts in more locations, ideally on brown field sites, with thorough current assessments of impact on human wellbeing, traffic pollution and wildlife before decisions are made.

My concerns with the plan are as follows

There is a great loss of green space which is vital for human flourishing. Some of the residents of thanington and Wincheap are among the least financially well off in Canterbury so more at risk of mental ill health and therefore most in need of access to no cost green space such as thanington rec and the orchards and fields of Merton park. As well as the health benefits of exercise and being in nature the green space supports community cohesion as people regularly see each other as they walk or play in these places. This is also important for human flourishing and a sense of belonging which counters isolation which shortens lifespan. The Merton park fields and orchards are the route to school for many secondary aged children from Wincheap and provide a safe and healthy less polluted walk then walking along roads. This also supports the mental wellbeing of a generation that are particularly struggling with poor mental health and provides opportunities for play in nature as they walk home.

There is research on the importance of mature trees for reducing temperature and cleaning air yet these plans would see the loss of almost all trees in a large area. This is a foolish action to take given climate change. The trees and other vegetation at the Rec and in the orchard provide a varied habitat for wild life including birds on the conservation at risk list. The prepared development is on a hill and so will also pollute the night sky with light which also detrimentally impacts on wildlife and humans.

The plans do not provide much detail about how the traffic will be managed in and out of such a large estate. Hollow lane and Wincheap junction already have poor levels of air quality, the cars of 2000 homes will greatly add to this, the road is narrow and traffic likely to be frequently stationary. Have new assessments of the traffic impact been done now Saxon fields is lived in? I am concerned about the impact of pollution on health of those vulnerable, many children and older people live in the area and increased traffic near a school and flats lived in by older people poses a great risk of being hit by cars. Currently many children are safely able to walk to Wincheap school, this promotes their healthy development, community cohesion and independence and supports parents to work. I think the plans threaten this.

Thanington recreation ground is the only public green space for miles and so vitality important for local people to exercise, meet each other etc.

More housing means more people so needs more green space not less so please look at options to build up eg for car parks like park and ride so the footprint is smaller.

Please make sure the local plan has provisions for affordable homes for young locals in such a way as to secure sufficient free to access green space for humans and wildlife, with sensible traffic management, reduced pollution, and so we can' enjoy our beautiful historic city in good health.

Thank you for considering these points.

Yours sincerely

Dr Elizabeth Weeks