

From: Megan Cork [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 October 2025 11:41
To: Consultations
Subject: A Local Resident's Objection to the Unsound and Damaging Merton Park Plan (Policy N1)

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Dear Planning Policy Team,

As a long-term resident of South Canterbury, I am writing to express my profound dismay and to formally object to the proposed allocation of land at Merton Park (Policy N1). This plan is not just a document of policies and numbers; it is a proposal that will fundamentally and permanently degrade the quality of life for me, my family, and my neighbours. I believe the plan is unsound because it has not been **positively prepared** with the wellbeing of the existing community at its heart.

For years, we have lived with a road network that is already at breaking point. Every morning and evening, Nackington Road becomes a slow-moving car park. The idea of funnelling the traffic from nearly 2,000 new houses onto this and other local roads is frankly terrifying. This isn't a minor inconvenience; it means more pollution outside our homes and schools, more time wasted in traffic, and more stress in our daily lives. The so-called transport "solutions" in the plan feel like a cynical joke, completely disconnected from the reality we face every day. They will not work, and we, the existing residents, will bear the consequences.

Our local services are already stretched to their absolute limit. I have personally experienced the difficulty in getting a doctor's appointment and have heard countless stories from neighbours about the struggle to find school places for their children. How can the council possibly justify adding a new population the size of a large town to this area without a concrete, funded, and guaranteed plan to bolster these essential services first? The policy's vague promises of a new school and health facilities are not enough. We need guarantees, not aspirations, and this plan provides none. This is not **effective** planning; it is a recipe for social infrastructure collapse.

Beyond the practicalities, this plan will destroy what makes this part of Canterbury a special place to live. The fields and orchard at Merton Park are not just empty land waiting to be developed. They are our local "lung," a place where we walk, where our children play, and where we find a moment of peace away from the city. I have personally seen a huge variety of birdlife there, and it is a cherished local asset. To see it bulldozed for a featureless housing estate would be a heartbreaking loss for the entire community. This plan feels like it has been drawn up without any real understanding or appreciation of the local area and the people who live here.

This is not a case of "NIMBYism." This is a desperate plea for sustainable, responsible, and compassionate planning that considers people first. The Merton Park allocation fails on all counts. It will create traffic misery, overwhelm our services, and destroy a precious green space. It is an unsound, unjust, and deeply damaging proposal. I urge you to listen to the community you serve and remove it from the Local Plan.

Yours sincerely,

Megan Cork

