

From: Michelle Crowther [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 October 2025 16:38
To: Consultations
Subject: Local Plan Canterbury: N1 Land at Merton Park

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Consultation Feedback: Local Plan Canterbury: N1 Land at Merton Park

Dear Sir/Madam,

I live in the Wincheap area and I suffer from chronic rhinosinusitis (CRS) which Leland *et al.* (2022) noted in their systematic review is a highly prevalent and burdensome disease, which can have a serious impact on the individual. As a result of my diagnosis, I take prescription tablets and use a steroid nasal spray on a daily basis to manage my condition.

During the Covid pandemic, the air quality was much better in Wincheap and I was able to take my daily exercise in the orchards. For the first time in many years, I did not wake up congested and headachy and had more energy to enjoy my daily life. I was able to temporarily stop my medication.

In the Chief Medical Officer's annual report on air pollution published in 2022, it was identified that the effects of air pollution have negative effects on health throughout the life course (Chief Medical Officer, 2022) and that this is evident from pre-birth to old age. As someone who has had two premature low birth weight children whilst living in Wincheap, who both now suffer from nasal congestion which impacts on their daily life, I appeal to you to consider the impact of construction and additional houses and cars in the Wincheap area with the proposed project at Merton Park which will impact the quality of life of its residents even further.

Leland *et al.* (2022) concluded that air pollution (particularly Particulate Matter) is correlated with CRS incidence/prevalence and disease severity. Canterbury City Council's *Air Quality Action Plan* identified that the highest site of air pollution within Canterbury is at the **Wincheap/Hollow Lane junction** (0.9 miles from my home). Developing nearly 2000 houses, which will be even closer to my home, will significantly increase the air pollution especially with the removal of the trees at Merton Park.

The Council's *Air Quality Report* (2025) also highlighted that: 'The Department of Health and Social Care's advisory Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants (COMEAP) has estimated that long-term exposure to man-made air pollution in the UK has an annual impact on shortening lifespans, equivalent to 28,000 to 36,000 deaths (COMEAP, 2018).

Zhou *et al.* (2024) in a cohort study involving 367,298 adult participants from the UK Biobank identified that long-term exposure to air pollution increases the risk of CRS, particularly CRS with nasal polyps underscoring the need to prioritize clean air initiatives and environmental regulations.

In the UK, air pollution is the largest environmental risk to public health (Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, 2022) so I appeal to Canterbury City Council to act responsibly and no longer build on the edges of a small city that cannot sustain this development, as it is putting the health of its residents at risk.

I therefore request that Merton Park be removed from the local plan. Instead the council should focus on smaller deliverable brownfield sites.

Best wishes,

Michelle Crowther

References

Canterbury City Council (2025) Air Quality Action Plan. Available at : [canterbury.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-02/Canterbury and Herne Bay air quality action plan November 2024.pdf](https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-02/Canterbury%20and%20Herne%20Bay%20air%20quality%20action%20plan%20November%202024.pdf) (Accessed 20 October 2025).

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