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To: Consultations
Subject: Draft Canterbury District Local Plan – focused consultation

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Good Evening

I am a resident of the Wincheap area and I would like to strongly object to the current plans to develop land at Wincheap Orchards (Merton Park) into approx 2,000 houses. My reasons for this are as follows:

Infrastructure and Transport Links: There is a considerable lack of information in the local plan or from the county council to explain how the site will be accessed or what new road developments will be needed to not increase traffic or air pollution through the current routes through Wincheap, Homersham or Hollow Lane. As the plan currently stands access through Homersham/Hollow Lane is completely unsuited to supporting 2000 houses worth of traffic and would gridlock south Canterbury. The newest developments in Thanington have already put excessive pressure on the A28 Ashford Road in which there are daily queues all the way back to the Milton Manor roundabout and a gauntlet of traffic lights to get past.

Nackington Road would also be unsuitable as it is nowhere near any major junctions. The roads and paths through Wincheap (Lime Kiln Road etc) are also unsuitable as road links as they are far too small to accommodate traffic. If I were to offer an alternative the land east of Nackington Road/A2050 would be better suited as it would have links to a main road and dual carriageway junction, but 2000 homes is still an excessive amount for the area.

Endangered Wildlife and Ecological Damage: There have been a number of sightings of rare birds that live and nest in the area, including many within the 'Birds of Conservation Concern Red List' (which there is evidence for). The planned development would destroy the habitats of these rare birds causing irreparable damage to our countryside and environment. Speaking personally, I have seen many bats out in the fields which may or may not be red listed themselves, and investigations need to be made in order to determine this. Also, the loss of valuable farmland while food security and costs for our country are becoming of increasing concern would be reckless.

Air Pollution, Health and Wellbeing: Canterbury City Council's own Air Quality Action Plan explains that the highest site of air pollution within Canterbury is already on the Wincheap/Hollow Lane Junction. Developing 2000 houses with or without new road

infrastructure will significantly increase air pollution in the area. In addition, the loss of green space will have significant negative impacts on the health and wellbeing of the existing residents of Wincheap, with reduced access to green spaces and Kent's beautiful countryside. I myself am a keen jogger and enjoy running cross country across the proposed development land, and its destruction would negatively affect both my physical and mental wellbeing.

Artificial Light at Night: Housing developments must consider the use of artificial lighting and ensure that it is not an annoyance to people, harmful to wildlife or undermine the enjoyment of the countryside or night sky. The proposed development is set on hills which overlook the city and there are genuine concerns that this will be visible across the district and will therefore not comply with planning rules.

I hope you take these thoughts into consideration for the consultation.

Yours Faithfully
Richard Osborne