

**From:** Sharon Gair [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 20 October 2025 20:55  
**To:** Consultations  
**Subject:** Objection to relocation of Park & Ride onto Thanington Recreation Ground

**--Email From External Account--**

Dear Sir/Madam

## **Re. Relocation of Park and Ride at Wincheap onto Thanington Recreation Ground**

I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposal to relocate Wincheap Park and Ride onto land at Thanington Recreation Ground.

This recreation ground has been used for many decades by the community for purposes of recreation, sport and social activity. It represents the lungs of an entire community.

The recreation grounds have been used for decades and provide the only large accessible green space for thousands of residents. They have hosted football matches, informal play area and community gatherings across generations. I attended a meeting very recently during which time many young local people who continue to use 'The Rec' expressed their extreme disappointment and dismay at the consideration of the above development, indeed, their despair that you would consider taking away such a vital component part of their community.

Whilst considering your planning and policy decision with regards to Thanington Recreation Ground, it is important to bear in mind the permanent loss of this facility which would disproportionately affect family, children, and older residents who rely on it for everyday recreation. It would interfere with health and well-being in a community with limited amenities. The Recreation Ground is essential for physical activity, mental health and social cohesion. Once open space such as this one is lost to development, it is never possible to get it back. Allowing this relocation would set a damaging precedent for further erosion of community land. The proposal made, whereby you would consider providing a substitute recreational space, up at Merton Farm, does not replace fair like with like. You would be obliged to provide just this, an exact replica of what has been

taken away. This would be unachievable as it is not on the doorstep of those living in Thanington who so desperately covet this essential and much-loved space within their almost immediate vicinity.

Converting this space to a park and ride facility comes at the expense of the very community that it is meant to serve. Other sites for expansion should be explored that do not interfere with and cause the sacrifice of vital recreation ground.

I urge you to consider Thanington's open space not merely as spare land, but as a large green open space which is at the heart of the community, rooted in history and essential to the future of the local area. I therefore urge that Canterbury City Council reject any proposal that would relocate the Wincheap Park and Ride onto Thanington's recreation ground.

Yours faithfully

Sharon P Gair

**From:** Sharon Gair <sharon@bpassociates.eu>  
**Sent:** 19 October 2025 19:12  
**To:** Consultations  
**Subject:** Objections to the building of houses on Merton Park, aka, The Orchards

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**--Email From External Account--**

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re. Merton Park (Policy N1) aka, The 'Orchards' Development for Housing – My Objections**

I am writing to you to formally object to the development of the Merton Park site, known as The Orchards, for housing development.

My objections are based around three key areas:

- Access
- Traffic
- Environment

**Access:** The planning proposals imply that Victoria Road, Line Kiln Lane, Homersham and Hollow Lane will be providing access to both the end houses built, as well as for construction vehicles to gain site access. If you know these roads and lanes, you will appreciate that this is a non-starter. One of them is a dead end! Do you believe these roads offer credible, dependable and safe access into and out of the building sites/housing estates that might get built?

**Traffic:** Hollow Lane can be dangerous for school children and their families crossing over to get to/from Wincheap Foundation Primary school. Hollow Lane is busy enough now. Residents who live there talk of car drivers using that route during busy commuter times, as well as off peak travelling time, as a 'rat run'. Their cars get scratches and dents, with frequent loss of wing mirrors and minor collisions after traffic has passed through. Nearby Homersham has traffic calming speed bumps (designed to deter people from using the road as a 'cut through'), yet this is a route/road earmarked in the proposals as a usable road in the grander scheme of the build. Do you believe EXTRA traffic that will be forced onto Hollow Lane and

Homersham means that these are credible, dependable and safe driving zones into and out of the building sites/housing estates that might get built?

**Environment:** Over 38 species of birds have been identified in the orchard space over the last 12 months. Some of these sightings are very rare and some of the species themselves are very rare and are migratory. It seems that they are attracted to this particular open space and will continue to come for as long as the space is available for them to do so. I have it on good account that bats have also been spotted in this area as it presents as a suitable habitat for them also. It is a given that human beings need open green space to walk across and this is no different for the wildlife kingdom. The question I have for you is how you intend reconciling this because once you take this habitat away, it is lost forever, and the biodiversity is totally compromised. The biodiversity of the orchard area is very extra ordinary indeed.

Please consider these key points very carefully in your decision-making strategy/policy and thinking criteria.

Yours faithfully

Sharon P Gair