

From: V Golding [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 October 2025 20:34
To: Consultations
Subject: Policy N1 Canterbury

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--Email From External Account--

Dear Council,

I am writing concerning Policy N1 Canterbury and the proposed Merton Park development in Wincheap Orchards.

I have lived in Wincheap 13 years. I have used those orchards every day through lockdown, through my studying, through my work lunch breaks to give me a little green space in a very built up area. The idea of making this no longer accessible seems incredibly shortsighted. Not only would you be obviously destroying a rich habitat for wildlife, but the people that use that space do so as their only access to green space in a heavily polluted and housing-dense area.

To then choose this area to build more houses instead of an area such as by the University of Kent, where existing residents have Blean Woods and other amazing green spaces nearby, seems absurd. Wincheap is already the most polluted area of Canterbury, with extremely heavy traffic, I literally cannot believe that it is seen as the best place to build even MORE. What I can believe is that it is the most convenient place to build as the people living there have less resources to organise a full-scale movement against it. With this change being rushed through, you are planning on hitting one of the most economically disadvantaged areas of the city because of the decision to cave in to NIMBY pressure from a prosperous village. Some one has to make a stand for what makes sense here! Taking away Thanington's recreation ground, channeling building site traffic up the narrow roads round Wincheap primary school, and taking away the only available green space we can access by footpath, would be devastating for an already struggling area.

I agree that houses need to be built, and a well thought out plan for Wincheap to take a proportion of extra houses, would be fine. But an absolutely huge development with no thought to the volume of build-site and new residential traffic, on a beautiful green-field site, I object to in the strongest terms. It is so frustrating that NIMBYism leads to these absurd changes, where the well off can celebrate keeping the exclusivity of their villages, whilst the most deprived get the consequences dumped on them.

It is extremely frustrating that an area that seems well suited to development has been scrapped in favour of putting more houses in Wincheap. All this talk about 'no more traffic in Blean' - you don't have to live in Canterbury to know that Wincheap traffic is already far worse than any traffic ever encountered in Blean! This seems like a case of targeting an area of lower socio-economic privilege in the hope there will be less resources to organise against it. As a council, it seems important not to just bow to NIMBY pressure but think about the overall wellbeing of all residents.

Best Wishes,

Victoria Golding

