

## Tom Hawkes

---

**From:** Allard, Mark [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 21 October 2025 22:07  
**To:** Consultations  
**Subject:** Consultation Input - South West Canterbury Strategic Development Area 3.16 - Thanington Recreation Ground Green Space proposal for New Park and Ride

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

Dear Team,

Please allow me to share my personal views regarding the proposed development of Thanington Recreation Ground for consideration as part of the consultation.

This green space serves the community of Thanington and is a space I have enjoyed and continue to do so with generations of my family – this peaceful setting is enjoyed by many – our older generation for exercise and mental health, our youth for sports and social activities, our children for play, our dog walkers - and the only accessible space in the parish where different generations can come and enjoy an open, natural space with football pitch and river setting untouched by modern developments. It is essential a full impact assessment of both the loss of such community resource in addition to future impact is conducted and I outline further my initial concerns below.

1. Field in Trust advises 0.25 hectares per 1k population as a guideline for designated play areas, yet your own open space assessment shows Thanington already significantly below this at just 0.11 hectares and with increased housing and growing parish population that figure will further diminish – let’s not look to destroy a natural resource and the only place to escape in Thanington to enjoy the calms and tranquillity of nature.
2. Thanington Recreation ground is bordered by the River Stour, much of the immediate local area including residential areas is in flood zones – converting the existing natural soak way into a car park increases surface water running into the river stour increasing or worsening the existing flood zones in the area. Could you please ensure a flood risk assessment is conducted for this proposal? This must also include the impact of future climate change.
3. Further to point 2, the River Stour is home to much wildlife including beavers and water voles that are a protected species – it is my view converting the natural environment of the recreation ground to a modern development may impact this wildlife and an ecological impact assessment must be completed to understand the levels of harm.

May I suggest other potential options for investigation if not already reviewed, such as using vertical space on the existing Wincheap park and ride location such as a multistorey car park or sharing the nearby commercial car parks. Has an analysis been conducted into these options, for example a comparison of the costs of vertical space vs potentially ongoing costs of a new development including environmental impact and infrastructure to protect the environment and drainage ongoing? Or conducting a parking occupancy study of the park and ride and commercial car parks in the area for potential options such as shared parking or overflow at peak times?

If all such options are considered and the proposal is to continue, may I suggest a review of the amount of space required – for example, using just a portion of the recreation ground directly next to the A2 to extend the existing park and ride via overhead bridge or tunnel this preserving as much green space as possible for the community?

I look forward to hearing your thoughts with regards these concerns.

Many thanks,  
Mark.

**Mark Allard**

IT Operations Manager UK & Ireland and Nordics



**PHILIPS**

---

The information contained in this message may be confidential and legally protected under applicable law. The message is intended solely for the addressee(s). If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any use, forwarding, dissemination, or reproduction of this message is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by return e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.