

Tom Hawkes

From: Consultations
Subject: Bread and Cheese Field: proposed Development

From: Colin Bell [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 October 2025 3:10 PM
To: Andrew Thompson [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Bread and Cheese Field: proposed Development

--Email From External Account--

Hi Andrew, many thanks for your prompt response. I should be grateful if you could record my email, together with this one, as a response to the current consultation.

I note your response to the site visit. Are you able to confirm that your officers actually visited the village as part of this process? I think the village and particularly the residents of Bushy Hill Rd deserve an explanation as to why it was felt appropriate to exclude the greater part of the Road from the Westbere Settlement, particularly as the Field, with its historical and social connection to the village lies at the back of the Road. As I have said in my earlier email, this proposal has become very divisive. Even the consultants working on behalf of Wates, the Field's developers, in their submission to the Local Plan consultation, falsely described residents in Bushy Hill Rd " ...as outliers to the village, and today are more closely associated with the western edge of Hersden"; a statement that could not be further from the truth and designed purely to influence the Council.

It is a fact that Canterbury City Council misled residents in its Local Plan proposals and during the consultation presentations by producing a map which showed that the actual Bread and Cheese Field would remain within Westbere. (See doc. below item: 7 refers.).The line and the map were then subsequently amended, without consultation and no further recourse, and the whole Field was then moved into Hersden Parish (see below). This then, conveniently, led to the Field now being located in a Rural Service Centre, where development rules were far more favourable. Had residents been given the opportunity to respond to this change, the outcome could have been very different.

As you know, our Village fought hard to return the Bread and Cheese Field to Westbere Parish. During our campaign we chose to avoid creating any controversy over this change as we felt that the historical argument was persuasive enough to return the Field to Westbere. As the Field remains within the proposed Hersden Settlement Boundary we now recognise the consequences of this decision. There continues to be overwhelming support from residents, including the Parish Council, for the Field to be recognised as a Green Gap. thereby preventing the coalescence of the two communities: a principle that Canterbury Council has always endorsed. There is absolutely no justification for identifying Headley's Field, which remains well within Westbere, as a Green Gap, and for Bushy Hill Rd to be outside of Westbere's Settlement Boundary.

I trust that this will be reviewed and recognised in your recommendations. The invitation to visit the village still stands and I will be happy to discuss any of the above if you feel it appropriate.

Kind regards,

Colin

Sent from my iPhone

On 21 Oct 2025, at 07:39, Andrew Thompson [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Colin,

Thanks for your email.

You have raised a number of concerns regarding the draft policy we previously consulted on in 2024, can you confirm whether you would like us to record your email as a response to the current consultation please?

I appreciate you would like a site meeting to be arranged, however officers have already undertaken technical assessments and site visits as part of the Local Plan work, and at this stage it is important that we receive written comments that can be analysed to determine whether further changes need to be made.

Obviously the draft local plan policies are just that at the moment - they are out to consultation - and we will review all comments we receive before taking recommendation to councillors on the final draft version of the Local Plan (known as Regulation 19) early next year.

Thanks
Andrew

From: Colin Bell [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 October 2025 12:15 PM
To: Andrew Thompson [REDACTED]
Subject: Bread and Cheese Field: proposed Development

--Email From External Account--

Hi Andrew, I thought I should firstly advise you that since we last spoke, Ian Mclean is no longer chair of Westbere Village Preservation Society and is replaced by Tonny Van den Broek. As you might expect, Tonny and his committee are also very keen to retain the Bread and Cheese Field as a Green Gap in order to prevent coalescence of the two communities of Hersden and Westbere and to preserve Westbere's identity. Deborah Thompson and I have had two meetings with Tonny to brief him on our involvement in returning the Field to Westbere and our discussions with yourself and Matthew Archer.

My main reason for writing is that despite all our protestations and those of the majority of residents who have submitted their objections in previous consultations, the development continues to be supported in the latest iteration of the Local Plan. Our main concerns are to do with the exclusion of the majority of Bushy Hill Rd in Westbere's Settlement Boundary. This proposal is extremely divisive, risks splitting the community and makes absolutely no sense. The second relates to the absurdity of identifying Headley's Field as a Green Gap between the two communities, further reinforcing the separation of most of Bushy Hill residents from Westbere.

In order for you to fully appreciate our concerns, I should like to invite you, or a member of your team, to personally visit the village and to walk the road. The maps do not fully illustrate the continuity of homes along this road and there is no sense to the arbitrary Boundary Line currently proposed. I believe that a visit would demonstrate the illogicality of this proposal.

If you are agreeable, please let me know and I will arrange a time at your convenience.

Kind regards,

Colin

Andrew Thompson

Lead Corporate Policy and Strategy Manager
Policy and Communications



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Andrew Thompson

Lead Corporate Policy and Strategy Manager
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