

Tom Hawkes

From: chelsea.clarke [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 October 2025 22:04
To: Consultations
Subject: Thanington Recreation area

[REDACTED]

--Email From External Account--

Dear sirs

I write with grave concern following review of the draft local plan.

Having reviewed the plan and noted the proposal to turn the only area of outdoor recreation available to this underprivileged community into a park and ride, I have no option but to write and express my deep concern.

Firstly, I query the need for a 900 space park and ride in the area when the current park and ride is rarely, if ever, fully occupied. A freedom of information request will follow.

If it is the case that a 900 space park and ride is required I would query the need for it to be relocated from its current location, is it not the case that a multi storey car park would allow for the slip road and the park and ride to remain in its current location?

Whilst I do not accept that an expanded park and ride is required, if it is proven to be the case my respectful suggestion is that there are numerous industrial sites, with little if any community value, significantly better suited to house the park and ride. Numerous vacant areas on the wincheap industrial estate on the existing park and ride bus route as a start.

Following that sites further out of town towards the chilham and chartham village appear vacant, suitable for immediate occupation with minimal construction work required could assist with congestion and offer a solution to the councils suggested problem without taking away a valuable community asset.

To speak of the community and the impact the recreation grounds have had on this underprivileged community are endless and I do not propose to address them all here.

What I will highlighted is the significant decrease in crime rate in the area thanks to the great work of those at the recreation centre and their youth work. This council needs no reminding I am sure of the dire state of policing and courts in this county due to the tragic underfunding of these services.

The same is true for the health services that the resource centre provides. Only next week I have an NHS appointment at the centre with the health visiting service.

Wincheap is already a heavily industrial area whilst Thanington is a leafy green community. Taking away a great community asset is in direct conflict with the councils draft open spaces order and I ask that serious and thoughtful consideration is given to the many other options that allow a successful and profitable park and ride to service our small city. To take away the green space surrounding the resource centre would be short sighted and unnecessary.

I trust this community asset will be properly appreciated and cared for by this council and any works to the junction and park and ride will be made thoughtfully, with consideration given to the surrounding community to ensure any changes are true improvements rather than short sighted mistakes that lead to the irreversible loss of valuable resources.

Yours Faithfully

Mrs Chelsea Policarpo