

Tom Hawkes

From: Debora C [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 October 2025 23:01
To: Consultations
Subject: About the consultation about Merton Park

--Email From External Account--

Dear Sir or Madam,

As a Canterbury resident that lives in [REDACTED], I am writing to object to the proposed development of approximately 2,000 new houses at Merton Park. While I understand the need for additional housing in Canterbury, the size and location of this proposal are unsustainable and would have a serious negative impact on local infrastructure, the environment, and the wellbeing of residents.

1. Impact on Wincheap School and Child Safety

My daughter attends Wincheap Primary School, which is already massively oversubscribed. The proposed Merton Park development would significantly worsen this problem by adding hundreds of new families without adequate educational provision. The increase in traffic and construction around the area would also make it more dangerous for children to walk or cycle to school, especially along already busy routes. In addition, the loss of nearby green areas would deprive pupils of valuable outdoor spaces for learning and recreation — an important part of their education and wellbeing.

2. Strain on Local Health Services

My GP practice is located in Wincheap, and it is already extremely difficult to secure an appointment within a reasonable timeframe — often taking weeks. The addition of several thousand new residents would place unbearable pressure on an already overstretched healthcare system. Without concrete plans and funding for expanded local medical facilities, this development would directly reduce access to essential care for existing residents.

3. Loss of Biodiversity in the Orchards and Fields

The Merton Park area includes long-established orchards and open fields that support a rich variety of wildlife, including birds, pollinators, and small mammals. These areas form part of Canterbury's remaining natural green corridor and are vital for local biodiversity. Clearing them for a large-scale housing project would cause permanent ecological damage, contrary to Canterbury's environmental and sustainability goals.

4. Loss of Recreational Space and Community Wellbeing

As a local resident, I frequently run in the fields that would be destroyed by this development. These open spaces are a crucial outlet for exercise, mental health, and community connection. Replacing them with dense housing would take away one of the few remaining accessible areas in South Canterbury where residents can enjoy nature close to home.

5. Unsustainable Pressure on Infrastructure

The local road network, particularly the A28, already experiences heavy congestion. The proposed 2,000 houses would add thousands of extra vehicle journeys every day, worsening traffic, air pollution, and road safety. This is not compatible with Canterbury's long-term transport or environmental plans.

Alternative Proposal

Rather than approving a single, large-scale development, I urge the Council to consider a smaller, phased approach that:

- Prioritises regeneration of brownfield sites within the city first;
- Distributes smaller housing clusters more evenly across the district; and
- Protects green corridors, schools, and healthcare services from unsustainable strain.

Thank you for considering my objection. I hope the Council will act to preserve the safety, environment, and quality of life of the Wincheap and Canterbury communities.

Yours faithfully,

Debora Claros

[Yahoo Mail: Search, organise, conquer](#)