

From: Clerk [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 October 2025 14:59
To: Consultations
Subject: FW: Draft Canterbury District Local Plan: Focused consultation 2025: Extension of Lay-by on the A2 at Ropersole

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Dear Consultation Team,

Womenswold Parish Council

Objection to Proposed Extension of Lay-by on the A2 at Ropersole (towards Dover), submitted by Catherine Skinner, Parish Clerk.

The Parish Council has considered the proposal to extend the existing lay-by on the A2 at Ropersole, increasing capacity to 20 Lorries.

The Parish Council wish to object to this proposal for the following reasons:

- **New lorry park on M20 & additional lorry park for 26 lorries at Bridge**
The new lorry park at Ashford has capacity for over 150 lorries. The M20 is recognised as the designated route for large heavy goods vehicles to and from Dover docks and harbour. The application approved by Canterbury City Council CA/22/00096 gave approval for 26 lorries to be parked on the site near Bridge 24hrs a day, located 4.5 miles before the Ropersole lay-by.
- **Road safety concerns**
Extension to the Ropersole lay-by will encourage more lorries away from the recognised M20 route. The increased volume of heavy vehicles entering and exiting the lay-by poses additional risks to other road users on this busy stretch of the A2. The current road design is unlikely to safely accommodate such an increase in traffic movement, with regular 1-mile tailbacks at the roundabout junction at Whitfield causing accidents and delays for local traffic users.
- **Proximity to Residential Properties and landscape**
The lay-by is situated very close to the Ropersole residential area. Expanding capacity for 20 lorries would substantially increase noise pollution , vibrations and engine emissions, particularly at night when lorry parking is most frequent.

This would cause significant and unacceptable disturbance to local residents. Increased engine idling and emissions would also harm local air quality.

The proposal also refers to improving the landscape, this is already an area of AONB. How can the parking of 20 lorries day in /day out contribute to bio diversity ?

Existing trees, vegetation & wildlife habitats will be destroyed during the construction of the new lay-by. The Council has a statutory responsibility to protect and conserve our landscape in the Kent Downs.

- **Impact on Visual and Environmental Amenity**

A large number of parked lorries would have a detrimental visual impact on the surrounding landscape, further eroding the rural character of the area. The lay-by on the opposite side of the A2 has been closed indefinitely due to thefts and antisocial behaviour.

- **Lack of Basic Facilities**

The proposal includes no provision for toilets, showers, or café facilities. Without such amenities, there is a strong likelihood of antisocial behaviour, littering, and the improper disposal of waste, all of which would negatively impact the local environment and residents' quality of life.

It is stated that highways will maintain and clean the area. We are already aware how infrequently highways clean up and empty existing lay-by bins, why should residents have to accept the detritus left behind from these temporary visitors.

- **Unsuitable Location for Expansion**

The Ropersole area is primarily residential and rural in character. This is not a suitable location for a high-capacity lorry parking. Any expansion of this scale should be located within a properly managed, purpose-built lorry park offering adequate and secure facilities for drivers.

Conclusion

For the reasons outlined above, the Parish Council strongly objects to the proposed extension of the lay-by at Ropersole on the A2 . We urge Canterbury City Council to dismiss this proposal and to explore a more suitable location for increased lorry parking provision.

On behalf of Womenswold Parish Council

Catherine Skinner

Clerk to Womenswold Parish Council


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