



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Consultations Team
Canterbury City Council
14 Rose Lane
Canterbury
CT1 2UR

Tuesday 21st October 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I write to submit my comments as the Member of Parliament for Canterbury for the Focused Consultation on Canterbury City Council's Local Plan.

I have been working with and regularly meeting local campaign groups, and have heard from many constituents who have written to share their own views. I have heard from residents concerned about the large proposed developments in Chestfield, Wincheap - especially the latest plans for development of Thanington Rec, as well as the extremely unpopular ongoing proposal for Brooklands Farm, and the controversial Blean development which, although it has been removed from the City Council's Plan, has been resurrected by the University of Kent, much to the distress and anger of those who campaigned successfully for it to be removed.

Each and every iteration of the Local Plan has raised a number of serious concerns. More social, and truly affordable, housing in Canterbury is desperately needed, however, this should not and cannot come at the cost of losing our vital green spaces which are relied upon by so many. In particular, park land or public space in built up or traffic-heavy areas must be protected. We also know that air pollution in and around Canterbury has often failed testing of safe levels carried out by concerned citizens and community groups.

As such, I have significant objections to the following newly added proposed developments:

N1: Land at Merton Park

I have been contacted by constituents regarding this proposal and am aware a public meeting organised by residents of Wincheap took place in the consultation period. Constituents are concerned at the scale of development at Merton Park and the affect this would have on wildlife and air pollution within the area. Constituents are also concerned that there has been no suitable plan from KCC as yet on vital road infrastructure to access the site.

N3: Thanington Recreation Ground

I strongly disagree with the plan to concrete over Thanington Recreation Ground to make space for a park and ride. This is the only green space within the community and is used by people of all ages. This green space is a vital lifeline for many in Thanington should not be concreted over.

I am particularly concerned that under-represented groups including residents in social housing, built up areas, or larger housing estates in our villages have their voices heard.

I am not a 'NIMBY', and nor are those worried about the over-development of our busy city. We simply have the right to expect imaginative and thoughtful Housing initiatives that enhance our communities rather than making life more difficult, stretch local services even further, or increase traffic to unbearable levels while removing our few precious and

important green spaces. The infrastructure in our UNESCO city is unable to provide for thousands more residents who will need to use health services, schools, our transport networks. And I have serious concerns around the increased pressure on our water services, famously struggling to meet current demand, with so many more people needing household supply.

Yours sincerely,

Rosie Duffield MP