

## Tom Hawkes

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**From:** Gary Warner [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 20 October 2025 14:28  
**To:** Consultations  
**Subject:** Objections to draft local plan

[REDACTED]

**--Email From External Account--**

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my concerns and objections to some of the proposals outlined in the new draft local plan, which I believe will result in a significant negative impact on our local area.

Thanington Rec is widely used by the local and wider Canterbury district community and as an open green space should continue to be preserved for this purpose. The proposed plan to create a new park and ride on this green space is in direct contradiction with the councils own directive to preserve open green spaces.

This proposal would also significantly impact the charity run Thanington Resource Centre, who serve the multi generational and diverse population. Putting it at risk of closure.

A sports hub at the proposed Merton Park development will not compensate for this huge loss to this area and community. The sports hub will not only create even more traffic to enable travelling to and access to it, it will be unaffordable and an unsuitable facility for the majority of locals.

Moving the park and ride across the A2 will not resolve the well known fact that the Wincheap park and ride is too close to the city centre. If the council are this willing to fund a new park and ride then brown field sites at a greater distance from the city should be considered, as has been in in previous plans, such as those that were proposed at Harbledown to prevent the influx of traffic down the Rheims Way and Westgate Towers.

Moving it to the Thanington Rec would be a disgraceful waste of public money and it would remain as under used as it is now. If costs are a factor, then why is the council not considering bringing the slip road into the existing infrastructure? The park and ride is at least half empty on any given day and there is an empty unit in perch road, which B&M bargains could move into giving extra space for the slip road.

As residents of Ashford Road, we have already seen a significant increase in static traffic since the Saxon Fields development and the extra traffic lights, plus the northbound slip road that were put in place as a result of this. Air quality is a significant concern to residents, as well as the potential harm to health. Up to this point we have never been informed of any testing or results if it has been tested.

The Merton Park proposal is reflective of a disproportionate level of housing in this area and again a contradiction of the local plan in terms of traffic pressure in this locality, with the original proposal of an access on/ off A2 slip road having been taken off of the plan. Despite the original plan considering this site was due to its proximity to the A2 for this very reason. The country lanes leading down into Wincheap will not cope, as well as further pressure feeding into the Pinn hill with this extra pressure.

What is also confusing is that it has come to light this week that Kent University still plan to sell their land in the Blean area for the development of 2000 houses so why is there further houses planned for Wincheap and Thanington?

I do not have any confidence in the proposals that any promised infrastructure will be delivered as recently highlighted by the lack of Primary School provision at Saxon Fields. The public sector services are at breaking point and further development in our area will significant this. I base this on my own experience this week having spent forty eight hours being treated in a corridor at the William Harvey Hospital, who is the flag ship hospital for East Kent!

I also noted from the 2017 Local Plan , where Labour leader Alan Baldock in 2019 reported that " The council were wedded to the idea of having a developer -led local plan". " It wasn't necessarily about where it was best for the communities; it was just based on where the developers wanted to build on"

It does not appear that this has changed, however I feel that if the lessons learned from the Covid 19 pandemic , where Communities united and stranger helped stranger are disregarded to just keep building and bullying communities, not only will we suffer now, but so will our generations to come.

I'm sure that I can rightly presume. that none of the councillors who are in favour of these proposals live locally.

Kind regards

Gary Warner



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**Fw: Thanington Recreation Ground**

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**From** Paul Prentice <paul.prentice@councillor.canterbury.gov.uk>

**Date** Sun 19/10/2025 19:04

**To** Consultations <Consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>

**--Email From External Account--**

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**From:** Gary Warner <gwarn4589@hotmail.co.uk>

**Sent:** Thursday, October 9, 2025 8:50 AM

**To:** Paul Prentice <paul.prentice@councillor.canterbury.gov.uk>; James Flanagan <james.flanagan@councillor.canterbury.gov.uk>; Alister Brady <alister.brady@councillor.canterbury.gov.uk>; Dane Buckman <dane.buckman@councillor.canterbury.gov.uk>; Jean Butcher <jean.butcher@councillor.canterbury.gov.uk>; Rachel Carnac <rachel.carnac@councillor.canterbury.gov.uk>; Liz Harvey <liz.harvey@councillor.canterbury.gov.uk>; Stuart Heaver <Stuart.Heaver@councillor.canterbury.gov.uk>; ton.mellish@councillor.canterbury.gov.uk <ton.mellish@councillor.canterbury.gov.uk>; Peter Old <peter.old@councillor.canterbury.gov.uk>; Daniel Smith <Dan.Smith@councillor.canterbury.gov.uk>; Naomi Smith <naomi.smith@councillor.canterbury.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Thanington Recreation Ground

**--Email From External Account--**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am alarmed at the news that consideration is being given to developing Thanington Recreation Ground into a Park and Ride car park. The fact that the Rec is the only piece of green space left for the community for this part of Canterbury to use. All other spaces have been developed/ sold off for housing. Thanington has been, in my opinion disproportionately, heavily overdeveloped in recent years without any developer seemingly addressing the abstract misery that the local residents are having to contend with. The A28 road from Milton Manor roundabout through to Wincheap is already at a standstill for best part of the day, even without the constant roadworks that seem to set up with increasing regularity. To now increase the volume of traffic using this road is incredulous for the sake of an important and much needed community space.

As public servants holding public office, I believe you are there to protect local communities, and this proposal does not show any regard to local community life.

I think that there is a place in society for Park and Ride services, however to have one less than 1 mile of the city walls has and never will make any sense. Developers should be made to fund a Park and Ride site well outside the City to promote the health and well-being of those they are building for as well as those who are currently residing in the area.

I think that the proposal for a Park and Ride site being re-sited, to the Rec, for the provision of a slip road off the A2 is an abhorrent testimony as to how the Canterbury Council Leaders consider the residents of Thanington.

This proposal needs to be rejected, as it was in 2008, and the Recreation ground needs to be safeguarded from all future attempts to develop- a much needed and important area of green space for the local population who you are there to represent and protect. The draft local plan states that "*the sports pitches will be re-provided as part of the comprehensive sports hub development within the Merton Park scheme*". Thanington Recreation ground is more than just sports pitches -it is part of the community life of the area.

Gary Warner  
Ashford Road resident.

Sent from [Outlook for Android](#)