

Tom Hawkes

From: gillian broughton [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 October 2025 13:42
To: Consultations
Subject: Merton Park Plans

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To Whom it may concern

I am very concerned when viewing the plans for nearly 2,000 houses at the above development as I foresee many problems.

1. Access sites to the housing and Traffic issues

All roads to access this site are already overloaded and involve traffic congestion. I can see no easy solution to overcome this. Minor narrow roads such as Hollow Lane are built up with nowhere to expand into and cannot provide easy access. Stuppington Lane at one end would cause a severe bottle neck at a junction where there can be frequent pedestrians crossing. More traffic joining at Wincheap will cause further congestion on the main road. Sites near Wincheap School with only narrow pavements when people are taking children to school and often also wheeling pushchairs etc will become even more dangerous - especially during the construction period. This is to say nothing of the additional fumes arising at a time of greater awareness of the health problems with poor air quality - especially in children.

If accessing from the other side (Nackington Road) there are also schools to manage. An increasing number of vehicles already appear to be using the unofficial (emergency only) slip road exit from the A2 as a short-cut to the rugby club and Nackington Road. This is already causing danger along Merton Lane North.

During the construction period there would be heavy lorries etc. Once the site was completed I cannot see how these roads would cope with the additional vehicles all then filtering towards the main roads into Canterbury. The area is heavily populated and people need somewhere to park their cars and cannot have all the parking spaces removed. Even if this was done the roads remain very narrow and with narrow pavements to walk along.

The additional traffic congestion, inevitable in the Wincheap area but also from the other side into Nackington and Old Dover Roads will deter people from visiting Canterbury. The Saxon Fieds development is not yet completed and so we do not yet know the full impact of that additional traffic.

The deterrent of long traffic queues to get into/across Canterbury. will inevitably have a knock on effect to the economy of the city as people choose to go elsewhere to spend their money.

2. Environmental Factors: There are multiple different species of wildlife in the land designated for building this large development.. Mature trees would need to be removed and ancient hedgerows rich with wildlife built up over many years/centuries taken out. . In a time of the benefit and indeed

needs of open space and 'wilding' often being highlighted in mainstream media I find it disturbing that Canterbury City Council would so blatantly go against these ideas and take such retrogressive steps.

Many different birds, reptiles and other animals can be noted in these spaces. A full search will need to be completed. Bats are also evident when walking at twilight and these sites should be treasured - not desecrated.

These open spaces filled with nature are not only important for biodiversity but also for the general health of the population. This is at a time that the importance of open spaces and places to exercise is also being highlighted for general wellbeing. The historic and long established rights of way through these fields and orchard spaces provide the public with easily reached and accessible green spaces from eg the terraced houses in Wincheap to exercise (with all the additional benefits to the health of the wider population) in an open space easily accessible.

Children benefit hugely from having this open and relatively wild space to absorb - even if they are not always aware of all they learn at the time. It is so important for their minds to grow up in an environment close to nature and not need to 'go somewhere' to gain these benefits. They have examples of different seasonal agricultural events such as harvesting all around them in addition to the different birds arriving etc. The additional traffic in the minor streets and along Wincheap will have a detrimental effect on air quality for their health.

I acknowledge that there is pressure on all councils to build more housing, but this needs to be done sensitively and with smaller scale developments rather than absorbing huge swathes of green space, producing a mass of small vehicles in a small number of small residential streets. Main roads into the city are already overcrowded and have not yet seen the completion of eg Saxon Fields development. The impacts of these developments cannot be undone.

I have not mentioned here the pressures on local services such as GPs and schools which are already struggling, but these would also become a major issue.

I do hope that Canterbury City Council will listen to the important and considered objections to these plans which present as seriously damaging to the environment, health of individuals and to the city in general.

Thank you.

Gill Broughton

