

Tom Hawkes

From: Penny Tyler [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 October 2025 12:57
To: Consultations
Subject: Merton Park Planning Application - Comments

[REDACTED]
--Email From External Account--

Dear Sir

Please can the comments below be included in the comments for the Merton Park planning application as I have tried to upload them on the planning website but have been unable to.

The leader of Canterbury Council has said "Local Plans are designed to enable housing and economic growth to be delivered in a coordinated way while delivering the vital infrastructure that's needed and protecting our most important green spaces, landscapes and habitats."

How is this application protecting our most important green spaces, landscapes and habitats?

It is Government policy to protect the nation's 'best and most versatile land' for agricultural production. The location of such land is determined by use of the Agricultural Land Classification. The ALC system (MAFF 1988) is the only approved system for grading agricultural land quality in England and Wales. The top three grades (1, 2 and 3a) are the Nation's Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land which is recognised by the National Planning Policy Framework (England) and Planning Policy Wales.

Local planning authorities are required to focus development of agricultural land on areas of poorer quality in order to retain grades 1 to 3a for agricultural production.

Please can the Planning Department at Canterbury Council adhere to this as it seems you keep forgetting! Time and again applications are being made on not only Grade 1 soil but the best and most versatile soil which as we are even more aware now is vital for our food production for the years to come.

It seems yet again Canterbury Council is not able to see this most vital asset. It is not just a flat area. It is soil, a substance made up of microbes that are built up very slowly over many many years.

Please listen - Local planning authorities are required to focus development of agricultural land on areas of poorer quality in order to retain grades 1 to 3a for agricultural production.

"In order to retain Grades 1 to 3a for agricultural production."

Thank you for listening.

Yours sincerely

Penny Tyler