

Tom Hawkes

From: Planning
Sent: 21 October 2025 13:57
To: Consultations
Subject: submission 1300577

Hi

I think this may be comments on the local plan.

Kind Regards

Amy

Case Services

From: noreply@canterbury.gov.uk <noreply@canterbury.gov.uk>
Sent: 21 October 2025 13:34
To: Planning <planning@canterbury.gov.uk>
Subject: Report a planning issue submission 1300577

--Email From External Account--

Date and time form was submitted - 2025-10-21T13:34:21+01:00
Form reference number - 1300577

Page: About you

- Your first name Kevin
- Your last name Power
- Your email address [REDACTED]
- Your contact number [REDACTED]
- Your address [REDACTED]

Page: Location of the planning issue

- Do you know the postcode of the location? Yes
- Enter the postcode: I cannot find my property

Page: About the issue

- What is the issue? change of land use
- How is the issue affecting you? First, I saw no warning that this is a timed space until I reached the very end of the piece. I have had to re type. Not good planning to warn at the end, don't you think? 1. I have lived in the Canterbury district since 2005, in Chartham. I know well the Thanington recreation ground and sports fields. I have rented rooms for work in the Thanington Resource Centre since Covid and used these playing fields for exercise between clients. I was

amazed and thankful that such a place existed for me and clearly for the local population, which has very little public amenity beyond these two things, the Resource Centre and the Recreation and Sports Fields. 2. This proposal, to concrete or tarmac over the equivalent of around 5 acres of publicly owned land that includes 3 football pitches, robs a deprived locality of its one major public amenity. Sure, the council owns the land but holds it in Trust for its residents, and not for even more parking spaces, and traffic movements and local pollution levels? Destroying the one public amenity of Thanington is so short-sighted! It goes against climate sense and common sense, and social amenity sense. Both parties now in power in the city council are acting recklessly in a political sense and in a human community sense. Taking away from those who have least in order to give to those who have cars and motor vehicles. How does that square with the philosophies of the two parties concerned? 3. The Youth Club in the Thanington Centre isn't confined to the building, but uses this entire area. Once destroyed and without space and grass and no traffic, the rise in juvenile crime will gallop again locally. The centre brought such crime down to much lower levels. It will rise again inevitably, and politicians will shake their heads and wonder why. Young lives will get mangled in crime and criminal lives, when maintaining these as recreation grasslands assists a great deal in giving them something other than tarmac and concrete. 4. The Merton Park development is planned to be the alternative, when it is developed. Years away. These fields are here now and have been public land for over a century. And the residents of Thanington will still have to get to Merton Park. The Thanington space is a short walk away and gets people away from their TV's and other machines and out to refreshing open grass fields, or else to watch or participate in organised sports. It is a form of planned daylight robbery. 5. The grass allows all kinds of formal games and spontaneous activity to take place in a forgiving surface, something impossible on bleak tarmac. For younger, older people and dogs etc. 6. This proposal is intended to allow a slip road to be built onto the A28, which loses 100 spaces of a car park. Leaving 490. While 900 places are expected to be chiselled out of the fields, which altogether doesn't add up. It means there will be a further 310 spaces made available. What happens to the remaining 490 to the east of the A2? The local response from the Thanington residents suggests a multi-storey car park on the present site, which would keep up and even expand parking sites while conserving the fields of Thanington. There are alternatives - no further TINA. 7. Why not direct traffic to the south along the A2 and construct a new slip road heading back on the A2050 into the P&R at the top of Old Dover Road? There seem to be much less objection for such an expansion at ODR P&R. Add to this directions to re-open a P&R on the University site, or is that inconveniencing the wrong people? 8. Any P&R move to Thanington deprives the route of Simmonds Road into Canterbury whereby the P&R at Morrisons has a one way effect and allows quick access to the city centre. Using the Thanington site will mean more traffic directly onto the A28, making the P&R less effective. The junction feeding the ingress and exit for the proposed new site will hold up traffic even more. Also if traffic is coming off a new slip road beside Morrisons and it wants to use the proposed new site, it has to make right turns which are always more awkward and also a further right turn into the Thanington site. More traffic build up along the Ashford Road. 9. There was a proposal some time ago under the previous council administration to extend the P&R to land bordering the river behind the current Pets at Home and Gym buildings. This was successfully opposed by many of those who are likely now councillors sitting on the current joint administration. How is it that they seem unable to voice opposition to this much larger plan when it destroys what hundreds of people living close by, perhaps with little or no possibility of moving elsewhere, are using every day for enjoyment, exercise, leisure, sport and spontaneity? 10. I am totally opposed to this piece of social and political vandalism. Kevin Power

- Do you have any photos of the issue? No
- Do you know who owns the property or land? Yes
- Name Canterbury City Council

[View it on a map](#)

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