



15<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Dear Consultation Team

I am an 89 year old and have lived in Canterbury all my life. I don't have the internet or a computer so I am dictating this letter to a friend for me to sign and post. I have learnt of the proposed plans through local press articles. It may seem that my opinion wouldn't matter as the intended plans are going to have less impact on me than some younger residents of Canterbury. But it is my experience of the city which makes my opinions very pertinent. So I want to make my objections clear both to the loss of the Recreation ground and to the planned housing development using the already congested roads as access.

I strongly object to the use of Thanington Recreation Ground as a Park and Ride

I grew up in Windsor Road, Thanington during wartime and the community had to pull together. It was important at that time as it is now to get outside into open spaces. So I am incensed to read that the current plan is to deprive the Thanington residents of their much loved and quite frankly invaluable recreation field. I thought that the Canterbury Council were committed to providing and protecting green spaces for the residents to use for recreation. It seems nonsensical to use such a space for Park and Ride facilities. There must be other sites, possibly brown field sites, which could be used, maybe further from the town so that people who want to use it wouldn't be congesting an already congested area. There is the suggestion that residents could go to sports grounds nearly two miles away. How would they get there? The whole point of having local facilities is that they are easily accessible on a daily basis. The area needs their recreation ground. It is a well-used facility in a deprived area of the city and should be retained for the current generation and generations to come.

I strongly object to the proposed building of nearly 2000 homes on the Merton Site with the congestion it will cause, the loss of open land and the loss of a possible site for a new hospital.

It was good for the people of Blean to learn that they will not have to suffer further housing in their area but suddenly the Thanington area where I grew up and lived in for around 30 years is going to be 'hit' instead! Suddenly a site which had not been considered viable previously is destined to have the best part of 2000 houses. If it wasn't viable once why now? The road network and suggested points of access are entirely inappropriate using already badly congested roads for the works and subsequently for the residents.

I believe that the plans include a school and water treatment works but it is often the case that such facilities never actually materialise.

In Canterbury we are in need of a new hospital building. The proposed housing development uses land which was once earmarked for this. Once it is built on Canterbury will not get that chance again. But if the land remains earmarked for a future hospital building there is some hope.

I hope that the council will make decisions which will benefit the residents of Wincheap and Thanington for the next 89 years. I would be happy to further explain my reasons should you wish to contact me. I wait with interest for the next stage of the planning process.

Yours sincerely



Elizabeth Stone