
Objection to Policy N3 – Thanington Recreation Ground

From Stuart Heaver [REDACTED] >

Date Tue 21/10/2025 09:16

To Consultations <Consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>

Cc [REDACTED]

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Canterbury District



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21 October 2025

**Draft Canterbury District Local Plan: Focused consultation 2025
Policy N3 – Thanington Recreation Ground**

Dear Sir/Madam

This response to your request for comment on the latest S18 proposals should be considered as separate to our general response which will raise a number of acute concerns raised by residents over a wider range of the proposals.

This letter is only to raise our strong objection to Policy N4, Thanington Recreation Ground. It is based solely on information provided by residents and community leaders in Thanington who are extremely distressed and concerned about this proposed policy.

This is a special case in our view and in retrospect should probably never have been included as an option in this focused consultation.

There are a number of public concerns regarding the effectiveness of park and ride schemes in general, the many alternative locations for it, the inadequacy of the proposed replacement recreation area (45 mins away and not available for many years) and the potential conflict with this Council's existing open space strategy. However, this objection is far more fundamental.

- Policy N3 would destroy most of the remaining green open space in this part of the city which is treasured by local residents for a wide range of recreational and social activities.
- Policy N3 would remove about 70% of the valuable grass roots sports facility used by clubs and individuals and leave a small patch of grass to squeeze in one football pitch
- In the longer term, Policy N3 would remove all of a highly valued safe expansive outdoor space for youths and young adults to meet and engage in recreation.
- Policy N3 would destroy the heart and soul of the Thanington community.

One important element that we fear has not been fully understood in the consultation process is that the removal of the large proportion of green space on the site would threaten the future of the successful Neighbourhood Resource Centre. This is the beating heart of Thanington - a self-funding charity which offers a wide range of community services from youth clubs and community events to food banks. This popular facility should be encouraged and supported in every way not threatened and undermined by planning policy. If the green space, recreational pitches and the open scenic setting become a car park, the charity's ability to raise revenue from room and space hire would be destroyed.

We urge you to remove Policy N4 from any part of the draft local plan before it progresses to Section 19 consideration and reassure community leaders in Thanington accordingly.

Yours faithfully

Cllr Claire Turnbull
Cllr Andrew Harvey
Cllr Keith Bothwell
Cllr Stuart Heaver
Peter Campbell (Green Party Candidate and Canterbury resident)