

To the council,

I think even with this growing societal awareness regarding our environment, a need to preserve our green spaces, it is still unforgivably overlooked by profit making organisations, and as a local eighteen year old, I felt the need to contribute my own opinion;

The Rec is integral to this community.

It is a safe space for sports, for dog training, for playing and for community days instated to give our children a fun and affordable time. It attests to our diminishing wildlife that such a substantial group of people rely so heavily on the rec as their only local playing field, but it is still there, and it is still valuable. I personally possess countless positive memories of this space, it was a foundational part of my childhood, and I know that I am not alone in this. I only hope that it can remain, to grant these same experiences, this same space, to future generations, and to today's children. The rise in technology makes it increasingly vital to encourage playing outdoors, and making nature as accessible as possible is one of the most important elements of this movement. If we lose the rec, we lose a lot more than one field.

And all of this is not even mentioning the knock on effect of the resource centre, which makes its money via renting conference rooms, independently funded to then put back into the community, giving to Thanington's residents, especially our children- for example hosting the youth club. The upheaval of this plan's construction could destroy this centre, and this social, positive and inclusive space.

The contribution of the resource centre, the benefit it brings to our community is incomparable to the possible benefit of a car park.

I believe that without this hub, we will see a rise in crime in this area. And everyone that has accepted this plan will be culpable.

Kind regards,

Xochitl