

Tom Hawkes

From: Naomi Blunt [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 October 2025 21:37
To: Consultations
Subject: Merton Park planning application

[REDACTED]

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Dear Sir/ Madam

Please can the comments below be included in the comments for the Merton Park planning application? I have been experiencing difficulties in accessing the planning website. I would be grateful if you could include my comments below:

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.”

I believe this application is not protecting our most important green spaces, landscapes and habitats at all.

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. The Planning Department at Canterbury Council is not adhering to this! Applications are being made on not only Grade 1 soil but the best and most versatile soil which is VITAL for our food production for the years to come.

It seems Canterbury Council is not valuing this most vital asset.

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’.

Many thanks,

Regards,

Naomi Blunt,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Sent from my iPhone