



Littlebourne Parish Council

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Littlebourne Parish Council's response to Canterbury City Council's Local Plan 2042/43 – Regulation 19 Publication

This document outlines Littlebourne Parish Council's comments submitted as part of the public consultation for the Regulation 19 Local Plan. Our feedback focuses on the following areas:

SS5 – Movement and Transportation Strategy

- LPC welcome the proposal for a comprehensive city-wide network of segregated cycle lanes, particularly those connecting to coastal and rural areas. Such links are notably absent in rural locations; for example, cycling along the A257 during peak times from Littlebourne is currently an unpleasant and unsafe experience.
- LPC support the bus-led sustainable transport strategy but stress that substantial improvements to existing services are essential for this to be effective.
- LPC would argue that the removal of city centre parking spaces is not justified. Alternative solutions must be considered, as eliminating all city centre parking places significant hardship on rural residents who rely on cars due to a lack of viable alternatives.

C1 – City Centre Strategy

- LPC endorse the identification of suitable city centre sites for development, such as the former Debenhams building and Northgate garage. These locations, which have remained vacant and derelict for years, should be prioritised over greenfield sites in rural areas.
- However, LPC continue to contest the rationale behind the removal of city centre car parks, including Sour Street, Watling Street, Pound Lane, Queningate, North Lane, Holmans Meadow, Rosemary Lane, and Northgate.

C15 – Land South of Littlebourne Road / C16 – Land South of Bekesbourne Lane

The plan for 2,500 homes along Bekesbourne Lane and the already capacity-stretched A257 raises significant concerns:

- LPC question the sustainability of these sites considering national policy. With only two buses per hour serving the A257, increased reliance on private vehicles is inevitable.
- The proposal for an onsite water treatment facility, along with the site draining into the Lampen stream (which feeds Stodmarsh Nature Reserve), presents clear pollution risks and threatens the protection of Stodmarsh, contravening national policies on biodiversity and water quality.
- One conceivable benefit is the proposed link road to Mountfield Park, which may help alleviate 'rat run' traffic currently passing through rural lanes in south Canterbury.

R9 – The Hill, Littlebourne

Although planning permission for this site has been granted on appeal, it was contrary to Canterbury City Council's original rejection due to sustainability concerns. LPC maintain our objections, noting that the site is:

- Not effective – as it is unlikely to be deliverable within the plan period, particularly due to unresolved sewage infrastructure issues, with Southern Water not expecting to address these until well after 2030.
- Poses a pollution risk to a Chalk stream, which is a priority habitat under the NERC Act 2006.
- Inconsistent with national policy, as the development would be car reliant and therefore unsustainable. The plan for R9 still references improved walking and cycling links to Bekesbourne Station. However, the recent planning decision found the cycle link unrealistic and cycling to Canterbury impractical. With only two buses per hour at best, reliance on cars remains unavoidable.

R10 – Court Hill, Littlebourne

- LPC assert that this site also fails to comply with national policy, representing another unsustainable, car-dependent development.
- The justification for this site is insufficient, particularly given the poor access via the already congested Jubilee Road. Surely, more suitable sites exist within the district.
- Delivery is doubtful, as the same infrastructure and sewage capacity shortcomings apply here, albeit on a smaller scale.

Littlebourne Parish Council recognises the importance of having a current Local Plan at this time of change in local government; Canterbury could leave itself susceptible to haphazard development when the new unitary councils are formed. However, this does not mean Canterbury should accept a plan that falls short of the required standard.

On behalf of Littlebourne Parish Council



Mrs Gail Hubbard
Parish Clerk