



BY EMAIL

Dear Sir/Madam,

R.E. CANTERBURY RUGBY CLUB REPRESENTATION IN SUPPORT OF THE MERTON PARK ALLOCATION (POLICY C10)

On behalf of Canterbury Rugby Club, I write to support the proposed development of Merton Park (Policy C10) within the Draft Canterbury District Local Plan (Regulation 19, 2026).

Canterbury Rugby Club is a long-established local institution, providing accessible opportunities for participation in sport for residents of all ages and backgrounds. The Club's role extends well beyond matchdays, supporting youth and junior provision, volunteering, coaching and safeguarding, and helps build community cohesion through regular training, fixtures, events and outreach. Securing appropriate, high-quality playing and ancillary facilities is therefore critical to sustaining and growing this local community asset.

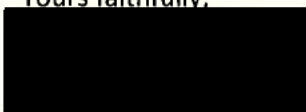
The Merton Park allocation presents a clear opportunity to strengthen local sporting and community infrastructure in a way that is responsive to identified need and aligned with the Plan's objectives. The increased adjacent resident population arising from the wider development will also play a key role in supporting the long-term vitality of the Club, helping to broaden its membership base, sustain participation across all age groups, and reinforce its function as a valued community hub.

Key benefits include:

- Increased capacity to meet growing demand for rugby participation and training, including junior and women's sections
- Improved quality and resilience of pitches and supporting facilities, helping reduce cancellations and improve year-round use
- Stronger player development pathways and wider health and wellbeing outcomes through regular physical activity
- Enhanced social value locally through volunteering, coaching, community events and partnerships with schools and other local organisations
- Integration with the wider development, improving accessibility and ensuring long-term provision is planned and deliverable

For these reasons, we support the Merton Park allocation and consider it deliverable and consistent with relevant planning policy.

Yours faithfully,



Giles Hilton MBE
Vice Chair and Life Member
Canterbury Rugby Club