

Objection to Policy C10 – Merton Park
Canterbury District Local Plan (Regulation 19 Consultation)

I object to Policy C10 (Merton Park) in the Regulation 19 Draft Canterbury District Local Plan, on the grounds that it fails the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2025, Pg 77) that:

P1 (1, iii). **development proposals will not themselves cause unacceptable levels of pollution**, either alone or in combination with other developments, taking into account communities which may be particularly vulnerable to its effects, such as children and older people.

- Over 2000 residents in Wincheap (21%) are children and teenagers; they are already at particular risk from the high levels of air pollution. The area closest to the orchards (close proximity to Wincheap Foundation Primary) has the highest level of PM10 in Canterbury. There will be a further unacceptable increase in vehicle pollution - and a deterioration of air quality - with Merton Park.
- There is a children's park on Wincheap, and many school children walk along Wincheap Road and adjacent roads, particularly during peak driving times when the air quality is very poor. The narrow streets in the area with already high numbers of slow moving (and often stationary) vehicles on Wincheap compounds the issue; the pollutants become trapped in the immediate area. This is compounded further by the petrol station, which will also see a significant increase in use with Merton Park. The proposed access to the development along Hollow Lane is unacceptable; there are already significant bottle necks here with cars trying to manoeuvre to get through (all whilst young children are coming and going from school). This again, just adds to the poor air quality.
- There has been no detailed assessment of air quality, and in particular fine PM2.5 particle pollution in the area. This is despite the serious long-term health risks it poses. We have collected several months of air quality data from monitoring conducted behind a front window within a house on Wincheap Road, which further demonstrates the severe extent of the air quality problem. We can make this data available.

The Merton Park development with the resulting significant increase in vehicles will be in direct conflict with the NPPF 's (2025) **Planning for clean and safe places** which supports efforts to...minimise levels of pollution and create clean, liveable and safe places for people to live (P1(1), pg 77).

Yours sincerely

Ellie Williams

