
Canterbury local district plan - regulation 19 consultation Wincheap Merton Park development

From Geraldine Deeney [REDACTED]
Date Sun 03/05/2026 17:27
To Consultations <Consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>

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Planning Office,

I wanted to email to register my objection to this development - I think I have put some notes on your website, but the objections link is not easy to navigate on your website and I didn't want the date to pass and not be sure that I had made my points concerning Merton Park development.

I moved from St Dunstons to Wincheap due to the pollution from the traffic & cars, poor car parking situation, and too many greedy landlords converting homes into multi occupancy accommodation - with all the drama and bad behaviour they brought to a lovely residential street that had been Orchard Street - making normal day to day living unbearable.

If you again, allow this development to go ahead at the benefit of a few greedy developers and to the detriment of SO many local people living around the whole green site. No one can put a value on the wellbeing this space is giving to so many local people. This little green lung should be being protected - the gains are so short term with the long term negative impacts rolling on for years. It can't be argued its for housing, as they haven't even finished craving up the site or selling properties just across the road at Saxon Field.

The access to this site will prove disastrous for locals ,on the tiny mostly single track local roads - how will lorries possibly access this site?

If you are thinking of sending them down Hollow Lane which is already really congested with cars parked on both sides of the roads and passing a primary school, it would cause an horrendous traffic situation. You would do the same if you sent them down Homersham road - the traffic lights already don't work properly at peak times with cars unable to access Wincheap road.

The pollution is already terrible, another 4000 cars would just make the situation terrible.

Water supply - this is going to be a huge problem as South Eastern water can't even cope at moment. I am in contact with their leak line most months concerning Hollow Lane. They come do a cheap repair which lasts until the next heavy rains, causing huge flooding down Hollow Lane. Blocked drainage that is never cleared properly with nowhere for the water to drain away. How will they supply water for another 2000 homes.

The Wildlife - the biodiversity within this area is outstanding, they have already lost their habitat over the road (due to the Saxon Fields estate), although the developers did have to leave one tiny little corridor of trees for the dormice who are protected. The birds of prey, owls, woodpeckers, migrating sifs who all use these orchards, as do many small mammals and slow worms - where will these animals go once you destroy their habitat? You can't just keep removing all the green spaces around Canterbury and think that a couple of green corridors' will suffice.

The Mental Health of the local residents - this green space proved a life saving space during lockdown period, and I use the orchards every day, twice a day to walk and relax after a stressful day at work - as do hundreds of local people around the whole area, children use the small park to meet and play, dog walkers , runners all use it for exercising. It won't be the same with a housing estate covering the entire space. And as for the beautiful view of the cathedral - you are destroying a world heritage site completely surrounding it with buildings.

No one is going to say lets go for a walk through a housing estate are they. Rather than developing the site we should be taking measures to protect this precious Kentish Orchard - again once these sites are destroyed they are never going to be reinstated - that's part of our Kentish heritage gone forever.

These estates are also creating rat runs for more drug dealing, a situation that is already a terrible problem - with dealers using bicycles to get around and do their dealing in and around the edges of these estates. Birch Road is a hot spot for drug dealers and there are not enough police to do a thing about it.

You are making living in Canterbury a misery, developing ever and any green space - why doesn't the council look at redeveloping all the ugly brown sites around the city first?

I have lived in and around Canterbury for over 16 years and this is the first time I have seriously thought about moving away. I love this city and this council is destroying this beautiful city.

Can you please let me know via an email receipt ,that my comments have been registered on this planning matter.

Many thanks

Kind regards

Geraldine Deeney



Evidence of Slow worms on the Orchards at Hollow Lane.