

From: Ashley Clark [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 May 2026 15:52
To: Consultations
Cc: Clare Turnbull; Stuart Heaver; Brad Harper
Subject: Local Plan consultation

--Email From External Account--

From Ashley Clark Hon Alderman of the City of Canterbury.
I shall restrict my comment to the essential.

1. At p 297 the provision for village green protection applicable to development exceeding 300 homes is woefully inadequate and particularly so in areas where several developments in close proximity such as at Whitstable south of the Thanet Way collectively exceed 300 dwellings whilst individually the developments are short of that figure. This should apply at the very least to all development in excess of 100 dwellings and preferably lower. A one acre site with trees can provide a valuable addition to overall diversity and can usefully add to proposed wildlife corridors.
2. Wildlife corridors must incorporate bridging or tunnelling so as to minimise the effect of roads which act as kill zones.
3. There is no provision for rigorous compulsion on developers to plant trees properly and to ensure their survival by watering in the first two years. At the site north of the Thanet Way (Gorrell Valley Nature Reserve) over the last five years we have witnessed the deaths of many hundred of planted trees with no effort whatsoever by the developer to water them and no effective enforcement action by this council in this regard. Whilst planning applications are packed with images of trees the reality is and continues to be a scandalous neglect across the entire district and this makes a total mockery of this Council's policies on environmental and bio diversity. Hollow words and sentiments indeed.
4. Millions of gallons of untreated sewage pour into our sea and rivers every year blighting wildlife and leisure activities as well as representing a threat to public health. This happens virtually every time it rains when the law is unequivocal and allows this only in exceptional circumstances. Water provision remains critical with a current lack of storage, and plans for Broad Oak remain as uncertain as they did half a century ago. Sewage treatment provision remains totally inadequate. Against this back drop the continuing appetite to build, build and build with no prospect of realistic improvement represents a total betrayal of the public interest and current residents. It represents an act of crass irresponsibility by this Council as a planning authority and as such this entire plan is holed below the waterline. There must be a total moratorium on all development in excess of 10 units until this situation is fully redressed and rectified. Merely responding to central government targets and developer profits has no part in the duty of a conscientious council.

With kind regards

Ashley Clark
Sent from my iPad