

From: Jennifer Kadwell [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 May 2026 21:23
To: Consultations
Subject: Draft Canterbury District Local Plan - Regulation 19 consultation

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Dear Consultations Team,

I am sending this e-mail to register my OBJECTION to the Canterbury District Local Plan, Regulation 19 of Town and County Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

The Draft plan is stating that the Grounds which are off Beacon Road, Herne Bay, still locally known as Herne Bay Hockey and Tennis Club Grounds, has now been declared as a 'Brownfield Site', yet had been designated as 'Protected Open Space' previously, and therefore it has been suggested as being able to have planning for 20 dwellings built on it! These Grounds have always been used for sports and Community use since being given to the people of Herne Bay over 100 years ago by Mr Dence, a local philanthropist of Herne Bay.

However, Canterbury City Council had themselves designated it as above, and it is also within the Conservation Area. They even had leased it themselves to the two Sports Clubs, so continuing the Grounds as sports and Community use. Suddenly these two Clubs moved to a 'Sports Arena' built by Mr. Quinn, yet the City Council still had the Grounds designated as Protected Open Space in the Local Plans. Then, even though the Community and Residents surrounding and adjacent to the Grounds, and roads around proved that it could still be used for Community use, suddenly the Council had massive metal fencing and gates erected and locked, stopping that being the only main entrance to the Grounds, thus stopping use by the Residents and people of Herne Bay. (The supposed notification was put so far into the Grounds, that the public could not read it as the original wooden gate precluded anyone going through this entry.)

However, some residents with individual gates into the Grounds, did allow some private entry points.

The Metal fencing and Locked Gates really precluded any further use fully as an Open Protected Space.

Suddenly when the New Local Draft Plan was revealed, the Grounds now were designated Brownfield! You, the Council had, it appears, deliberately put up the fencing and locked gate in order to change the status and designation, thus allowing claims to erect housing as part 'of the need to fulfil the numbers of new housing required by the present Government. Yet within the town itself there are empty buildings that could be converted into affordable housing, eg, Banks that have closed, Halls now not used, to 20 units!

The area is surrounded by many Victorian/Edwardian properties. Even housing that has infilled have been built in similar style, or if applications for extensions have been refused because these. 'Can be seen from the road and therefore not acceptable in the Conservation area!' So modern housing stuck right in the centre would constitute a complete anathema to the surrounding properties in what is a Conservation area within your own planning decisions.

There is a lack of Open Space Areas within the Herne Bay Area , by your own Council admissions. Surely the Grounds offer an extraordinary chance to provide what could become a special open area, complete with wildlife or play areas. It could even encourage the bats to return, birds to nest again, children to play safely in a controlled area. Have you actually provided detailed reports on what we have there now? Have you asked the residents surrounding the Grounds for their ideas? If not, why not?

I might add that I and previously my parents have lived here for over 25 years.

So in conclusion, these Grounds should be opened fully for use of the Community, both immediately around, and Residents of Herne Bay, therefore continuing the Historic use for what it was given to the town for.

Yours Sincerely

Jennifer L Kadwell

