

From: Jesse Fuller [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 May 2026 11:26
To: Consultations
Subject: FORMAL OBJECTION TO NON-COMPLIANT MERTON PARK DEVELOPMENT

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To Canterbury City Council,

My names Jesse Fuller and live at [REDACTED]. I am writing to express my formal objection to the unsafe and legally non-compliant Merton Park Development in the Draft Local Plan 2040.

The plan is unsound and legally non-compliant based on transporta and brownfield regulation failures.

Wincheap Road is unable to host the amount of traffic it currently has. Adding 2000 more houses, with the main direct access point coming onto Wincheap road is poorly thought out, unsafe and irresponsible. It shows a complete lack of consideration for Wincheap's current residents. Your own draft transport strategy admits the poor planning and would leave the A2/A28 Wincheap interchange severely congested, and there is no signed legal agreement with national highways accepting this. This is not only unsafe, it is legally non-complaint.

The pavements through Wincheap are incredibly narrow. It is not possible to allow a buggy or wheelchair to pass without stepping into the road. This is already incredibly unsafe for pedestrians and residents. Additional traffic will worsen this, and put the safety of children, vulnerable adults, and frankly all pedestrians using the pavement at risk, especially Hollow Lane. This will be especially prevalent around the area of Wincheap primary school, where the access points are proposed to pass through. Children's safety has not been considered in the slightest. Pupils leaving school at peak rush hour times, only to be walking and travelling down roads that are trying to hold far more traffic than they are built for. This is unsafe and cannot go ahead. As a young couple hoping to have children in the future, I am extremely concerned that my children would not be safe living in the area if this development were to go ahead as planned.

I also cannot understand the need to further pollute the area of Canterbury that already has the highest air pollution rates. NPPF 199 (2024 p.57) states plannings decisions should sustain and contribute towards compliance with national objectives for pollutants, and take into account the cumulative impacts from individual sites in local areas. Canterbury City Council Draft Air Quality Action Plan 2024 showed annual men's objectives for nitrogen dioxide were achieved at majority of receptors in Canterbury, but that exceedances were indicated at five receptors all located along Wincheap Road. Research in recent years has highlighted the severe impact of air pollution on children and adults, causing long term health conditions such as asthma and even being a major contributor to heart disease and cancer. This plan's utter disregard for the health and wellbeing of Canterbury's residents and

children is shocking. And in addition to adding 2000 houses worth of cars, traffic, and pollution, the plan proposes to remove the areas only accessible green space/countryside.

In addition, the orchard provides vital views of the Cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and also forms the key backdrop to the cathedral that has been present for centuries. To destroy this completely disregards our cities vibrant and incredibly history and possible violates laws protecting vital heritage sites. As mentioned in the council meeting on Thursday 5th, a passionate member of the public brought to attention that the council has not sought the necessary approval from UNSECO to destroy this historical view which is incredibly concerning.

The Merton Park development is unsafe, poorly thought out and legally non-compliant. I urge you to reconsider the Merton Park Development and consider the severe and devastating impacts this will have on the health and safety of Wincheap residents and the disastrous and irreversible damage to the culture and history of our town. At a bare minimum, the plot should be significantly decreased in size, and leave a significant green belt between Wincheap and the new development that allows residents to maintain access to the beautiful green space and does not impact cathedral views. Any access to future plots should entirely avoid Wincheap road, and should instead come from the A2/Nackington area with a park and ride service connecting the plot to Canterbury, as Wincheap road simply cannot cope with further traffic or air pollution.

I hope you take into consideration all of the residents views on the matter and consider how this will impact our lives.

Kind regards,
Jesse Fuller BEng PGDip

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