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Sent from my iPhone I wish to formally object to the proposed Merton Park development in Canterbury.

This development represents yet another large-scale loss of valuable green space and natural environment in an area already under immense pressure from overdevelopment. The destruction of countryside, wildlife habitats, and open land will permanently damage the character of the area and remove vital green space relied upon by residents for wellbeing, recreation, and biodiversity.

The existing infrastructure in Canterbury is already struggling to cope with the current population. Local schools are oversubscribed, GP surgeries are overwhelmed, NHS dental access is extremely limited, and hospitals are already under severe strain. There is no credible evidence that sufficient new infrastructure will be delivered in time to support the thousands of additional residents this development would bring. Adding further pressure to already failing services is irresponsible and unsustainable.

The road network surrounding the proposed site is entirely unsuitable for a development of this scale. Many of the roads are narrow country lanes that already experience significant congestion and safety issues. Increased traffic would inevitably lead to severe delays, dangerous driving conditions, and a substantial decline in quality of life for nearby communities.

Traffic congestion across Canterbury is already unacceptable, particularly around Wincheap and other major routes into the city. Residents regularly experience long queues, air pollution, and gridlock. This development will significantly worsen these existing problems. There has been no convincing explanation as to how the increased pollution, vehicle emissions, and environmental impact will be mitigated.

Serious concerns also remain regarding water supply. The South East already faces ongoing water shortages and increasing pressure on resources due to climate change and population growth. It is entirely unclear where the additional water required for this development will come from, or how the existing supply network can realistically sustain further expansion without negatively affecting current residents.

Overall, this proposal is unsustainable, environmentally damaging, and places unacceptable strain on infrastructure and public services that are already failing local communities. Canterbury cannot continue to absorb major housing developments without the essential infrastructure, environmental protections, and long-term planning required to support them.

I strongly urge the council to reject this application.

Regards, Lynne Thomas