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Sent: 17 May 2026 20:24
To: Consultations
Subject: Policy SS3 and Policy C10 Merton Park Development

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Dear Canterbury City Council

I am writing to voice my strong objection to the Canterbury Local Plan, namely the proposed Merton Park development.

The plan is unsound and non-compliant with the National Policy Planning Framework (NPPF) in a number of areas.

National policy requires that brownfield sites must first be developed prior to the destruction of greenfield sites. There are a number of brownfield sites in Canterbury such as the Wincheap Retail Park, car parks, vacant student housing that should be developed first.

The plan breaches the requirement in relation to “safeguarding existing open space, sport and recreation facilities (HC7), Local Green Space (HC8), designated wildlife habitats (N6)”. The area is full of wildlife including protected species. I do not believe an assessment of whether harm or displacement of protected species was undertaken before identifying this as a development site.

S5 states that development proposals which are for: agriculture; outdoor sport and recreation should only be approved “if the benefits of doing so would be substantially outweighed by any adverse effects, when assessed against the national decision-making policies in this NPPF”. The area is agricultural but also has a playing field. This playing field and the agricultural fields and orchards are used daily by residents and visitors to the area; they are vital to wellbeing giving access to the only local green space.

Other areas of significant concern include:

- - the impact on already struggling water supplies;
- - road infrastructure in an area that cannot cope with existing traffic, is frequently congested and already has high air pollution levels;

In summary, I believe there are several areas where the plan is unsound and is in breach of national policy.

Yours faithfully

Jane Burgess

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