

From: Debora C [REDACTED]
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To: Consultations
Subject: Consultation for "Canterbury District Local Plan (Regulation 19) "

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Hi.

My name is Debora Claros and I am a Canterbury resident at [REDACTED]

I am writing to object to the proposed development of approximately 2,000 homes at Merton Park, Canterbury. I believe this proposal fails to meet the required tests of soundness, particularly in relation to being positively prepared, justified, effective, and consistent with national policy. The loss of such a significant green area would have a damaging impact on Canterbury's environment, biodiversity, open space, and quality of life for existing residents. Green spaces within the city are increasingly important for wellbeing, recreation, and environmental sustainability and should not be sacrificed without exceptional justification.

I do not believe the proposal is justified when compared with reasonable alternatives. The scale of development appears excessive for the location, and the proposed access arrangements rely heavily on narrow residential roads that are already under pressure. Roads such as Hollow Lane, Homersham, and surrounding residential streets are unsuitable for the volume of traffic that would be generated by a development of this size. There also appears to have been insufficient consideration of alternative access solutions that could reduce the impact on established communities.

I also have serious concerns regarding whether the development is effective and realistically deliverable over the plan period. There remain unanswered questions about congestion, pedestrian safety, parking pressures, cycling provision, and the wider impact on local infrastructure and nearby schools. The proposed transport arrangements risk creating increased traffic, unsafe conditions for pedestrians and cyclists, and "rat runs" through residential neighbourhoods. In addition, many residents feel there has not been adequate engagement with the local community regarding these major changes.

Finally, I do not believe the proposal is fully consistent with national planning policy, which requires sustainable transport considerations and meaningful community engagement from the earliest stages of plan-making. A development of this scale should demonstrate clear evidence that infrastructure, access, and environmental impacts can be managed appropriately before allocation within the Local Plan.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask that this proposal be reconsidered and removed from the Local Plan in its current form. Canterbury's remaining green spaces are vital to the

character and sustainability of the city, and future development should prioritise genuinely sustainable and properly evidenced solutions that protect the interests of existing and future residents.

Regards

Debora Claros

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