

Chartham Parish Council – Kent
Mrs C Howard-Sparkes – Parish Clerk

Simon Thomas
Head of Planning
Planning Team
Canterbury City Council
Military Road
Canterbury
Kent
CT1 1YW

30 September 2020

Dear Mr Thomas,

RESPONSE TO CANTERBURY CITY LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION: OUR FUTURE DISTRICT 2040

As you are aware, in 2019, Chartham Parish Council made the decision to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for the area. A Steering Group has been formed and work is now underway on the Neighbourhood Plan. Work is gaining momentum and the Parish Council have now appointed a planning consultancy to assist with our plan's preparation.

We are currently undertaking a parish wide Vision and Objectives Survey to help us establish the local vision for the future of the parish (much like the current consultation is for the City Council). The consultation period started on 24 September 2020 and ends at midnight on 23 October 2020. This vision will form the basis of our neighbourhood plan.

In looking to provide a response to your consultation we are mindful that we are about to receive considerable feedback from our community regarding the key issues and opportunities for our parish. We therefore feel that it would be improper to provide a response to 'Our Future District 2040' which would be based on the views of a few when such a wealth of local opinion will soon be with us. We are also wary of predetermining what the key local issues are (and the scope and direction of our neighbourhood plan) prior to the end of our consultation.

As a community preparing a neighbourhood plan, we hope that we can work with the City Council to deliver a neighbourhood plan which sits alongside, and in harmony with, the new Local Plan for the area. We hope to have collated the responses to our Vision and Objectives Survey into a report by the end of October 2020 and will send that report to the City Council's planning policy team as soon as it is ready. This report will provide a comprehensive representation of the issues and opportunities facing Chartham.

Alongside the submission of this report, we would welcome a meeting with relevant officers and Councillors to discuss our findings and establish how harmony between the emerging Local Plan, and emerging Neighbourhood Plan, can best be achieved.

We hope that you find this letter helpful and apologise for not being able to submit a full response via your website at this time. The Parish Council and Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group look forward to working collaboratively with the City Council to develop a positive strategy for the future of Chartham.

Yours Sincerely


Chenice Howard-Sparkes
Clerk to Chartham Parish Council