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Dear Mr Thomas,

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

Thank you very much for giving local people the chance to comment. Please find enclosed my personal response to your consultation.

I apologise for sending a word document but I had problems uploading my comments. I would be grateful if you took note of my comments on democracy in the consultation process so far on page 7 of this document.

OUR FUTURE DISTRICT

Q. What are the good things about the local area where you live and what could be improved?

- Chartham has a great 'community feel'. This is split across several distinct settlements but brought together by community clubs and organisations (e.g. football, youth, running club, Riding School for Disabled Kent). These all help to serve the community and are run by volunteers. I believe these community facilities and activities should be safeguarded as valued community facilities. New community development/uses should be encouraged and supported as much as possible through the planning process
- Our countryside, both within and outside the AONB, are an amazing resource that attracts people to the Canterbury district. Not only do local communities actively and passively enjoy them but also Canterbury residents and tourists from far afield.
- Escape to the countryside has been especially emphasised during the COVID-19 pandemic, being an essential positive influence on many people's mental and physical health. Access to countryside must be retained and its beauty protected for ourselves and future generations to enjoy. In particular, I believe that commitment to the protection of the AHLVs associated with the Stour/Cathedral and North Downs is important.
- The Stour path and cycle way is an essential and sustainable link connecting Chartham with Canterbury City and other communities. It is used recreationally as well as for commuting, providing benefits to people and wildlife and should be maintained and enhanced as a valued local green space. Increased PROW Connections to this way would be a good way of encouraging its use..

Q. . What main changes would you like to see in the district over the next 20 years?

- Development which reflects a local community's needs. Neighbourhood Plans are of value: they include the development we need in the right place in the eyes of the community which knows the area best. It would be good to have more Neighbourhood Plans adopted including within wards within the City.
- Infrastructure improvements to make it possible for people to walk and cycle free from the danger generated by motor vehicles.
- An increase in the amount of public open space, trees and wildlife sites protected for the benefit of future generations. This may be possible by requiring net gains from new development and green infrastructure being masterplanned into developments at the outset.

- Chartham parish has existing traffic related issues. In particular in relationship to usage of the station. I hope that these will have been resolved over the plan period. New development should cumulatively resolve these issues, rather than making the situation worse or maintain the status quo.
- Infrastructure needed to support our population delivered without adverse impacts on their quality of life or the environment is important. This doesn't mean more roads, but integration of footpaths, cycle paths, and public transport hubs which have cycle parking and footpaths.
- Q. What are the climate change challenges for our district and how might these be addressed?
- Carbon emissions – New housing and development area will only add to our carbon footprint. There is a need for developments to offset their carbon emissions (both during construction and in their ongoing running) to help meet internationally agreed targets to halt the rising global temperature. The City Council should consider increased energy efficiency standards for all new buildings and ideally aim for zero carbon construction.
- Water Supply - South East Water's plans indicate that Broad Oak Reservoir is a vital piece of infrastructure and it is needed by 2025 – I believe that Broad Oak Reservoir should be developed in line with SEW's plans to meet the needs of new development whilst balancing environmental impacts. Alongside this development should be avoided on vital water catchment areas for aquifers. In new buildings, water efficiency should be prioritised and enforced through the planning system.
- Flooding - Retention and maintenance of water meadows and natural flood plains are an important form of natural flood defences which should be maintained. There should also be efforts to ensure that infrastructure (such as sewerage) isn't susceptible to flooding.
- Renewable Energy – Promote sympathetic renewable energy generation and storage.
- Climate Impacts upon biodiversity habitat will further increase the charge towards extinction of endangered species within sensitive habitats, for example within the river Stour, a chalk stream and wet woodland, marshes and nature reserves associated with it, - Make serious efforts to attain biodiversity net gain. In particular be aware of the sensitivity of the river and its importance as a vital lifeblood for plants and animals (including humans).

Housing and new communities

Q. What are the issues for housing and creating new communities over the next 20 years?

Issue	What do you think should be done to address this issue?
Providing new homes and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masterplan in a holistic way from analysis of constraints

Issue	What do you think should be done to address this issue?
communities in a sustainable way.	<p>and using local consultation throughout the process. Ensure that developments then come forward in line with the approved scheme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow local communities to have a say in how their area is developed through neighbourhood planning. In Chartham Parish there is real interest within the community which is leading to considerable insight into our local community, its current concerns and wishes for the future. • In rural areas, ensure new developments have design elements, scale and street patterns which integrate sensitively with adjacent buildings and landscape, reflect local vernacular style. Landscaping and tree planting should soften urban development and the urban fringe from the outset.
Lack of housing to meet local need.	Make efficient use of land to deliver affordable housing with less parking. Ensure that low cost housing ratios are enforced
Urban sprawl on greenfield land.	There is a need to use land efficiently. I believe that planning according to Garden City principles should be avoided as this eats up land. Instead, informed, sustainable urban design should be adopted on smaller brownfield sites. This not only has the potential to support smaller builders and local companies but also protect valued landscape and green infrastructure.

LOCAL ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT

Q. What issues need to be addressed for our local economy and employment over the next 20 years?

Issue	What do you think should be done to address this issue?
Changing working practices, resulting in the need for rural business hubs (for hotdesking and hireable office space) and an increase in working from home.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the creation of rural business hubs. • Concentrate on the provision of enhanced telecommunication infrastructure (such as internet connection and mobile phone reception). • Ensure that new development is properly connected by, for example, requiring FTTP broadband connections.
A mobile rural workforce serving our agricultural businesses need somewhere affordable to live.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to provide affordable housing specifically for these workers. • Ensure that the size and tenure of new homes are appropriate to support our rural workforce.

MOVEMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

Q. What issues need to be addressed for movement and transportation over the next 20 years?

Issue	What do you think should be done to address this issue?
Pollution and continued use of private motor vehicles. Concern that the charging demand for electric cars will overtake	Recent events (COVID-19) have proved that changes can have major positive effects. A concerted effort should be made to promote public transportation walking and use of bicycles and dissuade the use of private vehicles. This could be done by:

Issue	What do you think should be done to address this issue?
electricity supply.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting electric) bike charging stations to encourage local commuting by bike even in rural areas. • Deter car use by making other transport methods more appealing. • Integrate genuinely safe means of walking and cycling through every new development to easily connect with existing/new public rights of way towards town centres and public transport hubs. • Increase railway platform length in Chartham to increase capacity for direct high speed rail connections. • Introduce new cycle lanes, paths and byways. <p>Battery storage facilities could also help address capacity issues with the local power grid.</p>
Rural transport poverty	Use technology to ensure that children get to school. Use of demand–response public transportation (dial-a-ride), traditional and deviated fixed route services (e.g., shuttles, circulators), vanpool, or reimbursement programs.
Lorry parking deficit in district	Ensure that there are facilities and rubbish collection designed into lay-bys.

TOWN CENTRES AND LOCAL FACILITIES

Q. What issues need to be addressed for our town centres and local facilities over the next 20 years?

Issue	What do you think should be done to address this issue?
Inability of roads to cope with traffic	<p>Specific examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce an automatic level crossing at Chartham railway station. • Underpass to ease bottleneck caused by train crossing road at Canterbury West. • Resolve the under-railway bottleneck near Wincheap roundabout • A2 slip road
Graffiti	Require anti-graffiti coating on buildings and bridges, particularly on highly visible access routes into urban or rural centres.
Capacity of local infrastructure/facilities.	Ensure that new development in existing settlements resolve deficits in local amenities and community resources which have been identified by local consultation. Ensure that vital resources are integrated from the outset to prevent over-burdening of facilities.

HISTORIC AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Q. What issues need to be addressed for our historic and natural environment over the next 20 years?

Issue	What do you think should be done to address this issue?
Endangerment of the Stour River and RAMSAR site	Take account of the cumulative effects of development upon the river. Agricultural water abstraction rights exceed the water

Issue	What do you think should be done to address this issue?
	<p>capacity Of the river. Insist on rainwater catchment and storage from large agricultural buildings. Work with environment agency to ensure that sewage processing is effective.</p>
<p>Endangerment of North Downs setting of the Stour around Canterbury</p>	<p>Work towards the protection of the North Downs AHLV as committed to in the last Local plan and also towards the protection of the Canterbury Cathedral World heritage site and Stour valley AHLV.</p>
<p>Endangerment of Wildlife sites due to cumulative effects of development</p>	<p>Integrate green infrastructure in the form of wildlife corridors, hedgerows, and trees into new developments. Permanent statutory/legal protection of mitigation sites.</p>
<p>Light pollution is increasing, whitening and impacting the AONB and wildlife</p>	<p>Make lighting standards for road light in the district upon non-white colour temperature of external night lighting. This occurs in Sevenoaks and around the Cathedral world heritage site, where the Cathedral team have made considerable research into efficient lighting which respects the history of incandescent light.</p>
<p>Tactical removal of protected woodland to enable development</p>	<p>Undertake a review of woodland and trees at risk, proactively use Tree Preservation Orders to protect important areas rather than a reactive process. Introduce a planning policy which would result in permission for development being refused if a site had been cleared prior to the application being made.</p>

With thanks again, I hope that you find this response helpful. If you have any queries regarding any of my comments please do come back to me.

With best wishes,

Camilla Swire,

