

Fwd: Local Plan Consultation

1 message

CCC Planning <planning@canterbury.gov.uk>
To: Michael Bailey [REDACTED]

9 August 2021 at 08:39

Regards,

Planning Team
Canterbury City Council
01227 862178



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From: **Keith Bothwell** [REDACTED]
Date: Mon, 9 Aug 2021 at 08:27
Subject: Local Plan Consultation
To: CCC Planning <planning@canterbury.gov.uk>

Dear Sirs

My responses to the current Local Plan consultation are as follows:

1 Addressing the **Climate and Extinction Crises** should underpin everything in the Local Plan. A network of natural habitat spaces, some completely rewilded, and connected by green corridors should be developed as part of the Local Plan. These should firstly connect wildlife areas together to help boost opportunities for insects, birds, plants and animals and other wildlife to flourish. Some of these green corridors should also be combined with footpaths and cycle routes, to provide safe routes to schools and shops from suburbs and villages, encouraging people out of their cars.

All new development must be net zero carbon from day one, period. Anything less than this will mean that the district is adding to catastrophe of climate change. There should be a presumption in favour of retrofit and refurbishment rather than rebuild, as the former causes much lower carbon emissions. Existing structures, such as the partially-redundant council offices, should be retained and retrofitted for new users rather than demolished.

2 The principle of local **resilience** should run through the Local Plan like a thread that ties it together. We are currently extremely vulnerable to breaks in national and international supply chains, for food, for energy, for goods and materials, and for medicines. In addition, we are now acutely aware of how unstable some places in the world are as a consequence of climate change. The Local Plan should embody the principles of increasing resilience by encouraging local food production, local manufacture and repair, community energy generation, local crafts and skills development.

All new infrastructure and buildings should be designed for the increasing temperatures and rainfall that are both predicted and that are now being experienced. For example, natural cooling principles must be embodied in the design of all new buildings.

3 The existing road and sewage **infrastructure** of Canterbury simply does not have the capacity to support much new development of any kind within and around the city itself. The numbers of new houses proposed in the Local Plan for the city and environs are thus completely unviable. Instead of including large new housing sites in and around the city, a new garden city should be founded somewhere in East Kent, where the appropriate infrastructure can be developed to serve the new development — ie, the 'New freestanding settlement' option.

4 The whole way in which the **Local Plan consultation process** has been done — online as a series of webpages with pull down sections — seems designed to obfuscate the process. We can't see the proposals in their totality, but just as series of separate windows, visible one at a time.

Although I did eventually manage to get a Word document by emailing CCC directly, a Word or pdf version should have been provided of the whole consultation document directly as a download from the consultation website. There needs to be a complete record of the whole process, rather than just on webpages, which can be deleted at any moment.

The strategic objectives questions are posed as false choices — and appear designed to produce 'strongly agree' responses to nearly every question! This will create a lot of completely useless response data for that section. The rest of the questionnaire is very limiting in terms of the choices given to respondents. More open questions, admittedly much more difficult to analyse, should be offered.

Best regards

Keith Bothwell

Keith Bothwell

[Redacted]

[Redacted]
