

Fwd: Local Plan, Particularly the Western by-pass

1 message

CCC Planning <planning@canterbury.gov.uk>

9 August 2021 at 09:47

To: Michael Bailey [REDACTED]

Regards,

Planning Team
Canterbury City Council
01227 862178



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From: Rachel Wickremer [REDACTED]
Date: Sun, 8 Aug 2021 at 16:34
Subject: Local Plan, Particularly the Western by-pass
To: planning@canterbury.gov.uk <planning@canterbury.gov.uk>

To whom it might concern,

I am a local resident ([REDACTED]) and have lived at this address since 2007.

I was dismayed to read the local plan, which includes a plan to build 'the Western by-pass', a 40 mph by-pass within my local wildlife and beauty spot.

I read that the plan was partly devised to reduce traffic on the Rough Common road.

As most of my journeys out of Canterbury take me east to Faversham and London for work/leisure and I am a regular user of that route out of Canterbury and onto the A2/M2. I am perhaps lucky as I don't have to use it during the 2 x 30mins of 'rush-hour' during the week at which time the road is quite busy. I use it just before or just after those 30 mins windows and the road is always quiet.

I have no idea why Canterbury Council are considering a new road to reduce traffic on the Rough Common road based on my 14 years of using that road.

If the residents on the current road naturally want the traffic to slow or reduce I think speed-bumps or road furniture would be the cheapest and most sensible thing to do to achieve this.

As the longer lasting effects of the impact of COVID on travelling for work and leisure are still unknown it seems an odd time to choose to build more roads.

Building more roads leads to more traffic, this is a well known fact and has been demonstrated and modelled throughout the UK and the world. So the argument that this new road will reduce traffic on Rough Common Road does not hold water.

In my view a much more sensible new road would be a slipway Dover bound at Harbledown or a slipway off the A2 (Dover bound) onto Wincheap. This would reduce the need for people to have to use the ring road to get onto the A2 either direction. I also think the Wincheap industrial estate would make a much more suitable area for more housing with easy access onto the A2 London Bound and is already a brown-field site. I don't believe another park and ride is needed in Harbledown, which is a lovely Kentish hamlet and deserves to retain its character. I also think a clean air charge like those introduced in Bath and Birmingham would be a great idea for the ring road.

CCC are proposing to destroy the character and nature of a well used and loved green space which is used by local residents for leisure and exercise. I use the area in and around the proposed site (although I note the plans have been very vague as to where the actual by-pass is to be routed) daily to get exercise and fresh air. Especially during the last 2 years and under-lock down when we were all encouraged to take local daily exercise.

This space has been in-valuable to me and my household for our mental and physical health.

I walk my dog there in the evenings and often see bats, a wide range of species of insects, bees, birdlife, rabbits, foxes and well as owls. This habitat is to be taken from them. There are irreplaceable mature hedges and trees, including oaks, which again will be destroyed.

I have looked at the Strategic Environment Assessment, this assessment is a legal requirement, the proposed plan has performed badly in this, and there also seems to be no mention on the 2 new roads proposed. Why is this?

I question the need for this road and the 17,000 addition homes I see are also included on the plans for around the Medieval City of Canterbury. The government has requested that Canterbury provides 9,000 homes only. As a local resident, I can not see where any of the new jobs, and local infrastructure like hospitals, GPs, Schools, Green leisure spaces, sewers and drainage etc will come from in such a small area without destroying the character of the city. I think a stand-alone settlement would be cheaper and make much more sense, and can be built with the environment and infrastructure in mind. As a homeowner who's home is directly south from the route of the road I am concerned with the extra flooding risk more building poses to my property directly.

I was surprised to see the planed route of the road is to cut through a large school and a farm. The school provides local employment and education, bringing in money and jobs to the area. I think that Kent College will suffer from a huge drop in paying pupils if they lose the majority of their green space/sports areas and have a 40mph road running past their class rooms, increasing noise and air pollution.

I imagine parents will vote with their feet and the business will be destroyed, taking the jobs and income out of the area with them.

The farm provides locals with food, jobs and environmental bio-diversity, this is invaluable, and I thought to be encouraged?

It is with such sadness I contemplate the idea that my local area will be changed forever and become gridlocked, and my household will no longer have access to a local green space.

I understand the 2 meadows are not to have a road running through but alongside, (although I assume that is where the housing will be built in part). Even if the meadows are preserved, they will have no wildlife able to habitat them in peace and the meadows will be full of air and noise pollution.

I strongly object to the plan to build a western by-pass. I have tried to object using the CCC website, but found it confusing and impossible to use.

I hope that the council can re-think the plan and come up with something with does not have such a damaging environmental impact.

Regards

Rachel Wickremer



