

I have been unable to successfully submit the feedback form after several attempts so hope you will read this instead.

Reaction to draft plans for Canterbury

Having a university, a centre of excellence producing many graduates does not translate to high paid jobs. Countrywide graduates are often unemployed, forced to take manual jobs or move. Student numbers are falling. Nor has the presence of the university nor hi speed rail connectivity succeeded in attracting significant business investment in the area, will this change or it is mere fantasy?

We all know that Canterbury suffers from terrible traffic congestion and air pollution. Modifying existing and building new roads will act to encourage traffic, it is a truism that better and more roads don't ease congestion but increase it. The proposal to build a new link road in preferred option B is incomprehensible. How can it ease congestion where it is experienced in the city centre? Traffic for north Canterbury destinations already bypasses the centre by utilising Palmers Hill which can be busy at school collection times but cannot be said to be congested.

Park and rides are underused and thus building more of them is again wishful thinking.

Medieval cities offer no opportunity for enhancement of their historic potential. By definition, this already exists and can't be added to. They need protection to avoid calamities like Whitefriars.

The natural environment of Canterbury will be devastated by the building of housing and roads on its precious green spaces. These are crucial to the well being of the existing population and local biodiversity.

We already have well used cycle and walking routes in the City. Nobody wants to walk on footpaths adjacent to busy roads, for example, the North Downs Way follows arterial routes and is little used by local walkers. People like to walk to be in the countryside not manmade cityscapes.

In terms of infrastructure, notably sewage disposal deserves mention. Homeowners of north Canterbury south of Kent College have suffered the misery of backwashing sewage for over sixty years as more housing has been built and Victorian sewers have been overwhelmed in wet weather, not to mention flooding from overwhelmed and inadequate groundwater collection. The present structure is at capacity and little can be done to improve it as there is a bottleneck in Canterbury which would need to be rebuilt to accommodate the need! Improving infrastructure in a medieval town can't often be done. Any future additional strain would be unthinkable. A major reason for not developing in Canterbury.

Building new roads increases traffic. This can't help the cause of minimising the effects of climate change. Bold new initiatives are needed to deter car use, they could vary from penalties to a fantastic affordable public transport system.

Local Plan Feedback on Strategic Objectives

I strongly agree with all objectives but strongly disagree that they can be achieved by building new homes no matter how efficient (although this objective is likely to be compromised by profiteering developers) and roads.

History cannot be enhanced, unless you're going for the Disney effect, it can be compromised. A large population albeit with civic amenities and infrastructure does nothing to combat the nightmarish effect of overpopulation in a landscape which cannot sustain it. Instead of the promised Utopia in reality it is a recipe for a future Dystopia. The objectives read like a child's Christmas wish list.

For these reasons I would object to any proposal to build in Canterbury. I cannot support any plan to concrete over the southeast for political expediency. We must stand together and fight

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