

# The Canterbury Society

Development Management  
Canterbury City Council,  
Council Offices,  
Military Road,  
CANTERBURY CT1

30 January 2013

Dear Sir or Madam

The Committee of the Canterbury Society has discussed the plans for a Football hub at Ridlands Farm. We would like to support this proposal, but with some caveats.

We are glad to see more open space being designated in this part of the city, which is currently seriously lacking in space for leisure, sport and play. It is also good to see provision for football in the city, after the eviction of the club from the previous stadium. We hope that the site will host, not only football, but also space for dog walking, a children's playground and so on.

We continue to be concerned about the scale of the proposed facilities, while welcoming the fact that these are reduced since an earlier proposal. We note that the Masterplan talks of a possible future expansion of the stadium and the facilities if the club were promoted up to and including its membership of the Ryman Premier League. While we accept that, we would strongly oppose any future expansion beyond that required by the Ryman Premier League as incompatible with the general character of the area.

A key reason for our concern about expansion is the amount of traffic which could be generated through this largely residential area. One of our reasons for supporting the football facility is that an alternative use of the land for housing would probably generate even more traffic.

We would also like to raise questions about the impact of any lighting, especially since the floodlighting at the cricket ground has proved such an eyesore. We hope that if light from any floodlights might reach local housing, residents will be shielded by planting some evergreen trees.

Finally, if the clubhouse is to be used for social events, we would hope to see strict limits on the times when alcohol can be sold, as a condition of granting planning permission. In particular the clubhouse should not be allowed to remain open after 11 pm, nor should alcohol be sold beyond that time.

Yours sincerely

Jan Pahl, Chair of the Canterbury Society  
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