



# FOCUS

## Too much student accommodation?

### Student blocks opposed by students and the university

Canterbury residents remain deeply sceptical about the amount of speculatively built purpose built student accommodation going up.

"It is clear that residents don't want these privatised student blocks and many students can't afford the high rents that the speculative investors are charging", says **local campaigner Derek Maslin**. "Even the university is opposed to them. They are being built where we should be building houses for local people. Many developments are part empty and there is no sign they are freeing up student houses into houses for local residents."

Despite this, more and more blocks are being built. The most notable recent example is Palomon Court on Pin Hill (the old Peugeot Garage site). In April Lib Dem **Cllr Nick Eden-Green** managed to persuade the Planning Committee to refuse a block on the old St Mary Bredin School site on the ring road.

He says 'I thought the building that was proposed was utterly unsympathetic to this sensitive site and was delighted, with the invaluable



support of many residents, to persuade the planning committee to refuse it. However, the Conservatives voted through hundreds more student flats at Kingsmead, Military Road and St Peters Street.'

This all comes back to a fundamentally faulty Local Plan. The Plan failed to take account of student housing. Conservatives refused to do anything about this and voted it through. Only the Lib Dems opposed it. So now we have block after block of student accommodation on prime city centre sites which should have had houses for local people. Unless and until the Local Plan is revised we can do nothing about it."



**Canterbury City South County Cllr Ida Linfield** adds, "I also spoke against the St Mary Bredin School proposal at the planning committee for a number of reasons. I believe that the building would funnel and increase the air pollution from traffic; it would also be overbearing for residents in the Oaten Hill and Dane John areas and this historic site should be preserved for Canterbury's residents."

A group of local residents are setting up a non-party "Save our Mound" campaign group which we support. All local residents are invited to join and help - please contact Ida Linfield for more details.

## Where do Canterbury's parties stand on giving you the final Brexit say?



Liberal Democrats back giving the public a say on the final Brexit deal with an option to stay in Europe if Brexit does not actually deliver a good future. Vince Cable's Lib Dems support staying in the single market to protect exports and jobs.



Theresa May's Conservatives have ruled out giving the public a say on the exit deal. The PM had to be taken to court even to give Parliament a say. Tories say they will take us out of the Single Market with no guarantee this won't result in tariffs and lost jobs.

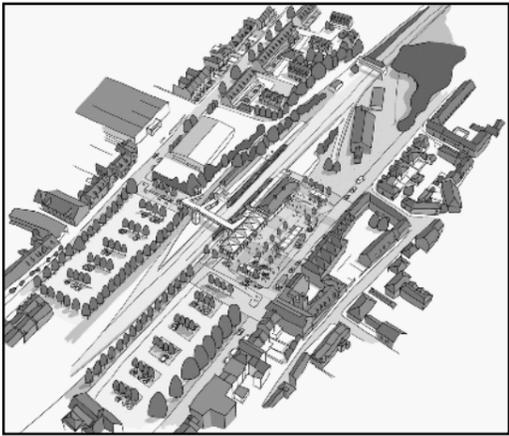


Jeremy Corbyn has let down Remain supporters by saying his MP's will 'probably' vote with the Conservatives on the final exit deal. He says he is against the Single Market and against giving the public a final say. But Labour, like the Conservatives, are hopelessly split over the issue.

The Single Market matters because if we are in the EU, tariffs are guaranteed not to apply to goods made in Kent for export to Europe. Countries can be in the Single Market without being in the EU. This means avoiding a 19% tariff on beverages and a 35% tariff on food produce. Avoiding these is vital to protecting jobs in Kent.

## New Transport Hub

For far too long Conservatives at Canterbury City Council and KCC have tinkered with the local transport system. Without a clear vision of what is needed they have come up with proposals that do no more than move problems from one place to another. Remember the Westgate Towers disaster?



Their latest idea of a multi-storey car park in Station Road West, at a cost of £9m will only bring more traffic to an already congested part of the city. In contrast we have unveiled a draft design for an integrated transport hub based on Canterbury West Station.

Key elements of this design include; -

- Extending the station building to provide separate entrance and exit routes to the platforms
- Bus stop replacing current taxi rank with regular "Hopper" buses to Canterbury East and bus station.
- More car parking on unused land on north of station with footbridge access and ticket machines.
- Additional tree planting

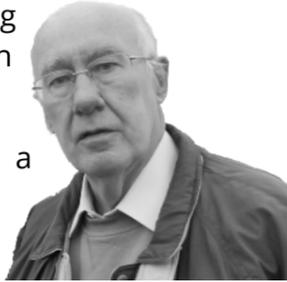
More details of this proposal can be found on our website at [www.cantlibdem.org.uk](http://www.cantlibdem.org.uk)

## Thanington Developments

an update from Cllr Nick Eden-Green

The problems of how to address the last minute Local Plan addition of the major new housing development in Thanington rumble on.

The Plan envisaged a 'garden city' type development of 1150 houses. However, this has now been split into two sites with little unity between them.



The access road to the main site has still not been finalised. Nobody seems quite to understand how the existing off slip road from Dover can actually be turned into a safe two way site approach road. The access to the 400 house site appears to be via St Nicholas Road and Strangers Lane which is the very thing local people objected to.

The 4<sup>th</sup> slip road is an extraordinary series of hairpin bends using part of the park and ride site and depositing through traffic into the Morrisons retail estate. I have consistently opposed this and voted against it.

Detailed plans for the A2/A28 junction, the new park and ride and the vital Wincheap relief road remain completely unclear.

I will continue to keep a close eye on this and to quiz the planners at both the city and county council who really do not seem to grasp the detail of the problem. If you want to know more about this then do look at the excellent Wincheap Society website. Go to [wincheapcampaigns.wordpress.com](http://wincheapcampaigns.wordpress.com)

## When will the bins be collected?

The city council have decided that the handy leaflet letting us know when our bins will be collected will no longer be given to residents. Instead you will need to go online or phone up if you are unsure in order to check the timetable.

Is this austerity gone mad or a good way to save money? Let us know what you think!



## Waste collection guarantee

It seems that not a week goes by without either individuals or whole streets in our area failing to have their waste collected by Serco. **It's an appalling service at times.**

It is however possible for local charities to benefit each time that your bins are not collected, provided that you sign up to the scheme and then report any missed collections. This year Catching Lives, Canterbury Mobility and Whitstable Umbrella Centre will all benefit when your bin is missed and Serco make a donation.

You can register for the scheme online <https://serco.canterbury.gov.uk/bins-recycling/serco/waste-collection-guarantee>

### Contact the WINCHEAP WARD FOCUS TEAM

KCC Councillor Ida Linfield	01227 750416	<a href="mailto:ida.linfield@kent.gov.uk">ida.linfield@kent.gov.uk</a>
CCC Councillor Nick Eden-Green	01227 470416	<a href="mailto:nick.edengreen@canterbury.gov.uk">nick.edengreen@canterbury.gov.uk</a>
CCC Councillor Charlotte MacCaul	01227 764714	<a href="mailto:charlotte.maccaul@canterbury.gov.uk">charlotte.maccaul@canterbury.gov.uk</a>
Campaigner Derek Maslin	01227 454109	<a href="mailto:maslin8@hotmail.co.uk">maslin8@hotmail.co.uk</a>



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Name: .....

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- I would like to receive regular email news from Canterbury Lib Dems (please add email address)
- I can help by delivering FOCUS in my area
- I can help by giving a donation. I enclose a cheque payable to "C&C Lib Dems"
- I will be voting Lib Dem at the next election
- I will display a poster at election time.

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