



Action 4U



Park and Ride: Where we are now

By John Gilbey

Leader of Canterbury district council

'THERE are two major projects which are relevant to the future of the Wincheap Park and Ride. The regeneration of the Wincheap Estate has long been an ambition of the City Council and has over the past three years taken strides forward. The Executive wished to see a mixed-use development - housing and retail - which would generate sufficient funds to support the major infrastructure changes required.

We proposed to relocate some of the roads, create a gyratory road system between the ring road and Wincheap, relocate the Park and Ride, make a tunnel access under the railway on to the ring-road and, most importantly construct the two slip roads necessary to complete the A28/A2 junction.

We wish this to proceed, but clearly the economic situation today is very different from just a few months ago and we will need to re-assess the project.

The slip roads from the A28 onto the A2 we considered to be key, and a great deal of lobbying and discussion preceded our visit to the Minister concerned last year, in concert with KCC and Julian Brazier. It was to our great satisfaction that the Minister agreed to the principle of the slip roads, which should see an alleviation of the traffic flow through both Thanington and Wincheap because of easier and shorter access onto the A2. It would also prevent the need for traffic to pass through Canterbury's ring road in order to access the A2 through Harbledown.

At about the same time, council had gained agreement for the preferred Park and Ride site at Harbledown after a review of several alternatives and a significant amount of research and study. This is the

second relevant project, foreseen in the 2006 Local Plan, as then formally adopted. The Wincheap regeneration development was also included in the 2006 Local Plan.

At the moment Canterbury has three very effective Park and Ride sites, used extensively each day at New Dover Road, Wincheap and Sturry. These facilities keep a large number of cars out of the City, lowering the need for inner City parking and they have become a traditional element in the District's transport plans. They are very effective but the northern approach, through Harbledown, currently has no equivalent facility, hence the decision to build the fourth Park and Ride site.

The easy and early decision on the slip roads immediately highlighted the possibility of the fourth Park and Ride site being in Wincheap - once the slip roads were complete and in conjunction with the existing facility (but relocated as the off slip would require some of the existing land). Council, through the Executive, realised that in order to be sure the right decision was taken, all potential sites in Wincheap and Thanington would have to be included in a comprehensive study.

Thanington Recreation ground, crucially, would require the provision of alternate playing fields and construction on open space and I am sure these will play a significant role in the overall study.

Therefore, there is no decision by this council to construct a Park and Ride site in Thanington, but all the possibilities must be carefully assessed and studied. I cannot accept any other interpretation as I do not believe in worrying or causing concern to residents unnecessarily, and I regret and do not appreciate the spread of misinformation which may cause that effect. If *Action 4U* readers require an accurate and consistent response on this or any other issue they have only to ask.'

Your Parish Councillors...

For addresses and more details see TWPC website: www.thanington-pc.gov.uk



Graham Page
462 508



Pam Blackman
761 699



Ian Bain
464 946



Ken Stokes
766 689



Graham Furness
761 492



Terry Maple
761 329



Terry Davis
451 485



Chibuzor Uwadi
749 501



Toni Baker
451 865