

Report of Councillors Claire Dauton and John Williams to Quy Parish Council for July 2020

This report contains factual information which we hope will be of interest and of use to the parish council and to the wider local community

Eastern Access Transport Consultation

We attended the first of several forthcoming discussions on the challenges and opportunities for improving access to Cambridge city from the east. The meeting was led by officers of the GPC, the body responsible for developing plans. The session dwelt mostly on current problems of congestion, lack of good public transport, hindrances to cycling and walking, and looked particularly at problems of Newmarket Road. There was little discussions of other routes and gaining connectivity between the eastern and western access routes ; nor was there much discussion of the bigger picture, nor was there any clear indication of timescales. The discussion was partly driven by the very localised questions, understandably. There was, however, some discussion of the different possible modes of public transport : rail, road and metro. Since this was the first in a series of meetings with the transport consultant, it is understood the future meetings will have a different focus. It was a good start in that it opened up many of the issues that have to be considered during the consultation process.

Water Treatment Plant

We have taken part in two meetings with Anglian Water concerning the consultation for the relocation of the Water Treatment Plant from the current site along the A14 to a site to the north. Three broad areas are currently under discussion : one in this Ward and two in the neighbouring Ward of Milton and Waterbeach. General, public consultation opened on 7th July. Consultation covers a large number of stakeholders and consultees and will last for three years. The final decision will be with the Secretary of State, and Development Consent Order will follow, if the chosen site is agreed. Anglian Water have indicated that they will go to some lengths to consult fully at all stages and to take on board the concerns of residents, answering all questions with the kind of detail that we will expect. They are aware of the

COVID 19 UPDATE

1. Volunteer Support

As the need for emergency help and support seen at the height of the epidemic has lessened, we have been looking to consider how best to help the communities into the future. Apart from continuing the individual support where needed, this help has taken the form of providing support to local businesses, which we will detail below.

Th SCDC Patch managers have been contacting volunteer groups with a series of questions relating to the number of volunteers, current work of groups and potential for further work in the future, asking if resources are sufficient and asking ways in which SCDC can offer support other than that currently available. The important work that groups have done over the past four months is celebrated and SCDC is wanting to gauge the strength of groups into the future should similar efforts be needed during the coming autumn and winter.

2. Keep caring for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

Residents across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are being urged to “Keep caring” for one another, as coronavirus has not gone away.

A campaign has been launched to reinvigorate public health messages and remind people that while lockdown restrictions are gradually being lifted – everyone needs to take action to help us all return to a more normal life. With certain government restrictions relaxed from Saturday 4 July, including being able to meet in groups of up to two households in any location, public or private, indoors or outdoors, it remains the case that even inside the home one should continue to keep a safe distance from anyone not I one’s household or bubble.

The Keep Caring campaign outlines ways that people can take care of themselves and each other - for instance highlighting that:

Caring is keeping your distance - inside or outside

Caring is being responsible - staying isolated if you think you’ve got symptoms, or been close to someone who has

Caring is covering your face - even with no symptoms you might still spread virus

Caring is washing your hands - regularly, when you enter or leave a new place

Caring is staying and buying local - to support local businesses and jobs

Caring is being considerate - rubbish destroys our countryside, and puts those who clear it up at risk

3. Help us share translations of NHS Test and Trace

People across the county are being asked to share translations of the important NHS Test and Trace messages, including where people can access help and support if they are isolating.

Currently there are 13 translations available and residents are being urged to share them far and wide using their own channels, so that as many people as possible understand the need to use Test and Trace. The translations also inform people how they can access help and support via the hub network and what steps they can take to limit the spread of the virus.

The translations are available at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/coronavirus and www.peterborough.gov.uk/coronavirus with more languages being added all the time.

The network of support hubs is available to assist people who are having to isolate, either because they or someone they live with has symptoms, or because they have been asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace as they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for the virus.

A user-friendly guide to NHS Test and Trace, including a Q&A document, is also available on the websites of the City, District and County councils.

4. Reopening the High St

Funding is available to help high streets across the country reopen safely following the lockdown. SCDC is able to apply for funding of up to £140,000 to assist with this.

We have started a project to further assist local businesses with reopening and to help build confidence within the general public to encourage a return to the high streets and local businesses. We have worked with County Highways team and established we have no major infrastructure and highways issues which are associated with towns and cities elsewhere in Cambridgeshire, but we do have some 'pinch points' where additional signage will be useful (Fulbourn High St for example). We are focussing on communication with residents to encourage supporting local businesses, safely, and promoting advice and on the ground support to businesses to ensure they remain Covid-19 secure. To help with this project, which could run for up to a year, we will be surveying some businesses at different stages to ask how best we focus our support.

In our community the Wilbrahams and Six Mile Bottom specific support will be given by environmental health officers to our local pub and shop on the communication of social distancing, on campaigns to encourage local shopping and use of local businesses, on hygiene and food security. We have already been promoting the 'shop local' campaign.

5. Business Support

(i) The SCDC Business Support Unit is now fully staffed and is working with the Council's Finance team, with the lead councillor for business support, Councillor Peter McDona, and with the lead councillor for Finance, Councillor John Williams. This group is both supporting businesses through the Covid 19 crisis and to assist in the recovery of local business. As district councillors we have been assisting the Unit to trace all local businesses who are eligible for grants in the first round and in the second, discretionary grants round, include several in our own Ward. This has been particularly valuable for those working in the hospitality and retail sectors and for charities with premises costs.

(ii) The Unit is also preparing to help businesses re-start and re-think, providing online information and advice and organising a seminar with the three local MPs and businesses, led by the Leader of South Cambs, Councillor Bridget Smith and the Leader of Cambridge City, Councillor Lewis Herbert.

PLANNING

Local Plan Updates Greater Cambridge Local Plan

The recent [Joint Local Planning Advisory Group](#) discussed and supported the recommendations of reports on initial findings from the 'First Conversation' consultation and the timetable for moving forward with the development of the Plan.

In the 'First Conversation' consultation earlier this year, we received around 7,000 comments, which we are still in the process of analysing. The [Initial Feedback from the Consultation report](#) presented some outline findings, which will be taken into account during the development of the Local Plan:

- On **where to build**, those who responded offered most support for densification of existing urban areas, along with development along public transport corridors. Views on development around

villages were varied and, on green belt development, it appears there is some support for locations which are sustainable in transport terms, to reduce car travel from locations further away.

- Most people agree that the right **seven themes** have been identified for the Plan, but there was a range of views about which themes should take priority.
- **Infrastructure** – which can refer to transport networks, education and health provision, and more – was the theme that attracted the most interest, with transport being the most commented on topic.
- The theme that attracted the next highest level of interest was **homes**, followed by **climate change**, which prompted a wide range of views – from those who felt it was a high priority, to those who felt that other issues should take precedence.
- Many responses said that continuing **economic growth** was important, although many also raised questions around whether growth was desirable. Some stated that wellbeing was a priority over growth, while others expressed the view that economic growth was the means to raise quality of life.

The consultation included a 'Call for Sites', where people could identify sites that should be considered for development or for green spaces to be created. The full list of sites put forward, including those submitted in 2019, **will be published later in the summer** once the new sites received have been registered. Asking for site suggestions is a normal part of plan making, and **they will have no status** unless any are eventually allocated in the Local Plan. The [update to the Local Development Scheme](#) shows the proposed timeline for the next stages of the Local Plan process, which takes into account the comments received and our wish to continue to work actively with our communities and stakeholders during the plan-making process. The proposed new programme includes:

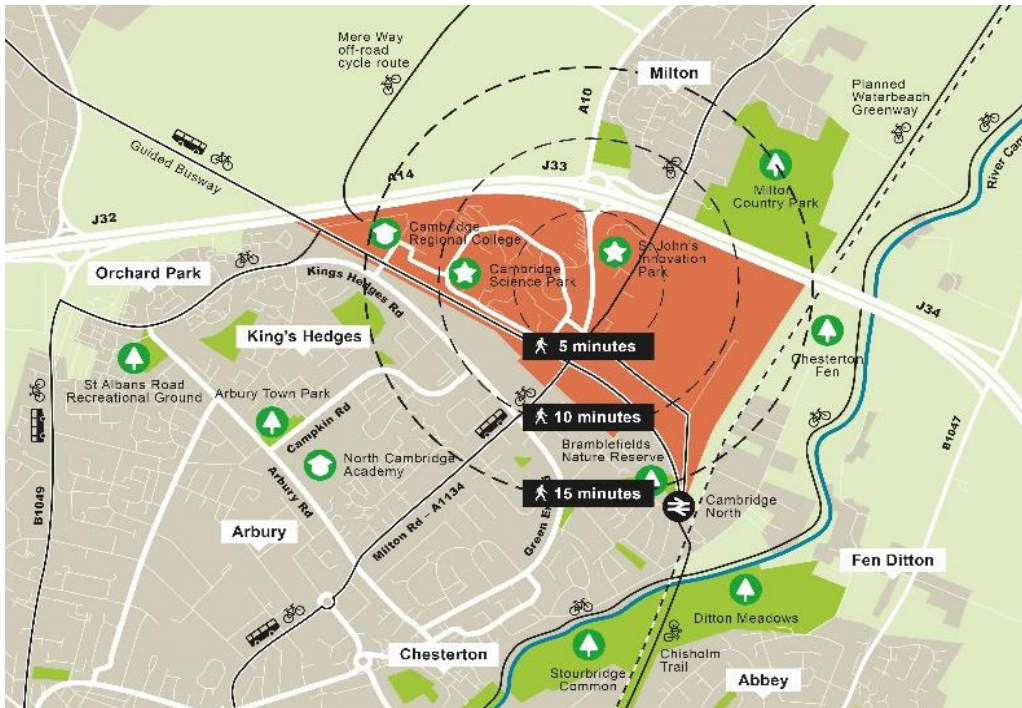
- **Publishing emerging evidence** from commissioned external consultants in **October 2020**, followed by themed workshops, including relevant partners and stakeholder/community representatives, in November/December.
- A '**Preferred Option**' consultation in **summer 2021**, when members of the public will be asked their views on our proposed approach. This will set out our suggested levels of development for jobs and homes; the sites we feel are most appropriate for development; and the suggested approach to policies such as climate change, affordable housing, and development in villages, for comment before the Local Plan itself is drafted.

Our area has a very complex planning context, including major infrastructure projects. As a result, the report details that there could be two scenarios for the way that the later stages of plan preparation could take place. In one scenario, the local plan timetable is aligned with the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan, and in the other, the Local Plan runs ahead of it. This will be kept under review.

The report also sets out the [proposed approach to how we will engage with a range of authorities and statutory bodies under the Duty to Cooperate](#) as we prepare the new Local Plan. This includes how we will work with neighbouring Councils.

The reports will next be considered by South Cambridgeshire [Cabinet \(29 June\)](#), and Cambridge [Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee \(30 June\)](#).

North East Cambridge Area Action Plan



The draft North East Area Action Plan is currently being considered by elected members, ahead of a major public consultation later this summer. [The Area Action Plan](#) is an ambitious planning framework for over 180 hectares of brownfield land, including the current Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant and the Cambridge Science Park. The vision is for an *inclusive, walkable, low-carbon new city district with a lively mix of homes, workplaces, services, and social spaces, fully integrated with surrounding neighbourhoods.*

The draft Area Action Plan includes about **8,000 new homes, including 3,200 affordable homes, and business space to support around 20,000 new jobs** along with shops, restaurants, and community and cultural facilities. It will be guided by the following principles:

- North East Cambridge must respond to the **climate and biodiversity** emergencies and lead the way in showing how we can reach **net zero carbon**.
- It must have a real **sense of place** – a lively, mixed-use, and beautiful area which fosters community wellbeing and encourages collaboration at every level.
- It should be firmly **integrated with surrounding communities** – physically connected, and socially cohesive.
- It will optimise the development of new homes, a full range of jobs for all, and provision of local amenities.
- It must be a **healthy district** where wellbeing, recreation and community safety are built into how it is designed.
- It will be planned around **walking, cycling and public transport first**, discouraging car use, as a key way to address climate change.
- The new proposed new district close to the A14 at the Milton Junction and just a 15- minute cycle ride from the city centre will be enabled by a £200m grant from government to relocate the Waste Water Treatment Works and follows years of work with communities and partners led by the Shared Planning Service, including full public consultations in 2014 and 2019 and ongoing and detailed studies on everything from biodiversity to noise and transport.

NB : EFFECT OF COVID 19 ON THE FIVE_YEAR HOUSING LAND SUPPLY

The Government has so far not accepted the need to recognise the effect of Covid19 on the five year land supply expected of local planning authorities. We are currently assessing the impact on the current Local Plan. The Local Government Association estimates that some three quarters of Local Planning Authorities may not be able to meet their five year land supply commitments. Without intervention by Government this will lead to the return of speculative housing developments.

HOUSING

Community Land Trust initiative for Affordable Housing

An initiative to provide local affordable homes for local people in South Cambridgeshire is celebrating its first major milestone – and it is hoped it will be the forerunner to other similar schemes elsewhere in the district. Great Shelford Parochial Charities plans to start work on 21 almshouses on More's Meadow at the end of the year after the District Council's Planning Committee approved its scheme last month.

Charging rents of no more than half the market rate, the charity will provide one, two or three-bedroom homes with low running costs for people who would otherwise be unable to afford a home in the village. To help get this off the ground, South Cambridgeshire District Council supported Great Shelford Parochial Charities with a grant through its community-led development initiative. The money was used to help with setting up a new website, funding pre-development surveys and sharing planning expertise. Meanwhile, through similar grants, three Community Land Trusts (CLTs) at Cottenham, Waterbeach, and Histon and Impington, were given funding to help them set up. These groups are now working on plans to address affordable housing needs in their respective areas. CLTs are comprised of representatives with local knowledge and expertise, such as architects, accountants and solicitors, and form part of a wider National Community Land Trust Network. They can bid for funding from a variety of sources, including government, once they have an affordable homes proposal in place.

The District Council has contributed £20,000 to help set up and guide the three CLTs and to support the long-established Great Shelford Parochial Charities in the early stages of their almshouses project. As the charity retains ownership of the properties, including 32 almshouses already in use, it was in a strong position to be able to raise funds for its next development and was in advanced talks with a lender.

ERO CARBON GRANT SCHEME 2020

(i) At its meeting of 26th June the Grants Advisory Committee approved the recommendation of the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee to hold another round of applications for funding schemes. These are aimed at helping communities to reduce carbon consumption and to raise community awareness of the need to combat the causes of climate change. £100,000 is available under this scheme for grants between £1,000 and £15,000 for community groups or parish councils or local charities with relevant community outreach.

(ii) This year the funding is focused on : cycling ; energy-saving improvements to buildings ; tree, hedgerow and other natural landscape improvements.. **Applications open on 1 July and close on 30th September.**