

Report of Councillor Claire Daunton and Councillor John Williams to

Great Wilbraham Parish Council for September 2021.

This report contains factual information which we hope will be of use and of interest to the parish council and to the wider community of the parish. For queries please email us at cllr.daunton@scamb.gov.uk; cllr.williamsjq@scamb.gov.uk

New Local Plan First Proposals Published

South Cambs has published the list of possible sites for new employment and housing as part of the First Proposals for the joint Local Plan with Cambridge City, together with a wide range of topic papers and evidence based studies. Over 690 sites were put forward in the Call for Sites, only 19 are coming through. None of the sites put forward for housing in or near Quy has been accepted.

There seems to be some continuing confusion over the term 'Cambridge East' in relation to the Local Plan and, related to that, the future of the airport. The airport site was taken out of the green belt in 2006 in connection with possible future development. The building of homes on the airport has been on the horizon for some time. This site is often referred to as 'Cambridge East', not to be confused, as a site, with Land North of Cherry Hinton or with Marleigh, though the whole area is of course Cambridge East! Marshall's have signed a memorandum of understanding to move to Cranfield from 2030; but any building will only be able to commence some time after that. Thus, in the new Local Plan 7,500 homes (not the figures 10,000 or 12,000 that have been cited or quoted elsewhere) have been set against this site, but in the Local Plan period itself (2030-2041) only 2,900 of those homes could be planned to be built.

In addition to the airport site Marshall's also put forward green belt sites further along either side of Newmarket Road, but these were not accepted.

This is an exceptionally green plan with the environment and well-being at its very heart. Extensive studies have identified that by 2041 there will need to be 44,400 new homes for 58,500 new jobs. **However, given the number of new homes in the pipeline this new Local Plan will look only for an additional 7,200 by 2041. We are adding 4,400 to this figure to provide a 10% buffer to ensure the number delivered meets the target to ensure the Plan is robust and should meet inspection criteria.** Meeting this need will mean that people are not priced out of the area or forced into long commutes and that we can keep house prices and rents down.

In order to meet your and our priorities for reducing carbon emissions and benefitting the environment, we have prioritised locations with excellent public transport, shifting the emphasis away from unsustainable locations in rural villages. For all sites, we will require the provision of 40% affordable housing.

We are delighted that these proposals are able to protect the vast majority of villages in South Cambridgeshire from any further development between now and 2041. Only 4% of the required homes are proposed in village locations.

We are also very pleased that these proposals will greatly limit any further loss of our valuable Green Belt/protect great swathes of Green Belt from development. We have achieved this by commissioning two very detailed studies on the Green Belt to support the selection of sites proposed here. Green Belt can only be released for housing development under 'exceptional circumstances' and only 4 sites have met this very high threshold. 2 of these sites are allocated solely for employment; they are at the Cambridge Biomedical Campus and at Babraham. Only 2 modest residential sites are proposed and these are in Oakington because of the proximity to the guided bus and in Great Shelford, due to closeness to the railway station. It is proposed that an additional 20 homes be allocated at Oakington and an additional 100 homes in Great Shelford.

However to achieve this overall aim of protecting the Green Belt around our villages we must use the brown field Cambridge North East and Cambridge Airport sites, which means the relocation of the present Cambridge Water Treatment Plant, the possibility of its

remaining on its current site having been rejected in 2015 by the authorities at that time. Anglian Water considers the only suitable alternative site for the new plant is in the Green Belt. **(See below for our comments on the Phase 2 consultation.)** The development of the Cambridge North East site in particular scores very highly for its sustainability.

The proposals are not only about locations for development. We also initiated a Call for Green Sites and the proposals include suggested new green space and wildlife projects.

And they set a high bar for building standards with policy recommendations for low-carbon building and continued provision of 40% affordable housing by developers of all sites.

We have also commissioned really robust evidence that shows how critical it is to reduce the amount of water taken from the groundwater aquifer. The preferred options for the new Local Plan put constraints on the amount of development if the water problem is not solved. Central Government has to step up and invest in advance of any further growth. There must be sufficient water to meet all demands and critically to guarantee that our valued chalk streams are able to recover and thrive.

There is a significant amount of information on line, including very helpful maps/

The First Proposals can be found at: www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/localplan.

It is planned that the First Proposals will go out to public consultation in November.

NB: We will here address, and provide clarification, on some points raised elsewhere in relation to density and to delivery on some larger sites.

The current local plan, covering the period to 2030, states that for villages termed Rural Centres and Minor Rural Centres the average density should be 30 dwellings per hectare (dph). However, this has not been the case in all villages. For example, in a development in this Ward the average is 40 dph, that stipulated for urban and new settlements. And ,indeed , if the current policy were to be rolled into the new Local Plan it would apply only to the 340 additional homes proposed for rural villages. High land values mean fewer affordable homes the lower the density.

In the new Local Plan densification will be related more closely to the individual situation of each site and will be tied to examination concerning sustainability and the environment.

On the large University site of Eddington, Cambridge University owner and developer of the site, is seeking to build more houses by increasing density by a small margin. On other large sites - Northstowe and Waterbeach - there will be no densification and the already-permitted housing numbers remain the same. The new plan does, however, seek to bring forward housing delivery on those two sites so that more of the planned homes will be delivered in the plan period, with fewer to follow after 2041. There will be NO INCREASE in numbers overall on those sites.

Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant Relocation (CWWTPR) Phase 2 consultation

The Phase Two Consultation closed on 18th August. We both responded and our replies have been copied to you. South Cambridgeshire District Council's reply can be viewed here:

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/18037/cwwtpr-phase-2-consultation-greater-cambridge-shared-planning-response.pdf>

We as individual councillors, along with the District, have raised serious concerns about many elements of the design of the plant, environmental aspects, carbon capture, traffic and transport, to name but a few. We have asked Anglian Water to review these many aspects as we believe their current approach is not satisfactory.

Anglian Water is now analysing and considering all comments to further develop and refine their proposals. AW has promised to provide an update on this later in the year. In the meantime, AW is continuing to undertake environmental surveys. In early July it commencement ground investigation surveys, will continue through September as planned. Four drilling rigs have now been mobilised. An on-site ecology specialist continues to assess and approve all borehole locations before drilling commences to actively mitigate potential ecological impacts. Some planned boreholes have been relocated to avoid disturbing the local wildlife as result of this work.

From the week commencing 23rd August survey activity has increased along the corridor between Waterbeach and the main project site. These surveys will be non-intrusive, and detailed liaison is taking place with relevant landowners to determine the initial survey locations. Archaeological trial trenching surveys at the main site and at points along our effluent pipeline route will start early to mid-September. The purpose of these surveys is to identify and assess any archaeological features of the site area, to inform AW's proposals and any further investigation that may be required. Archaeological trenching involves digging a series of 30 to 50cm deep trenches to excavate soil which will be assessed for any archaeological features, before being replaced. To undertake these surveys two mechanical excavators and up to eight archaeologists will be on site. Most trenches will be around 50m long and 2m wide. Trench excavations will be secured to prevent accidents and unauthorised access, including by securing any trenches which are left open overnight with temporary fencing. Some trenches may be required to be left open for a number of days as they may require inspection from the County archaeologist.

Land South of Coldhams Lane

We have both objected to this application for commercial development which is being determined by the City Council because of the effect of traffic particularly HGVs on nearby villages, including noise and the lack of public transport provision. The application has now been withdrawn, the developer having been made fully aware of the significant concerns of residents in relation to traffic, privacy, unsuitability of a major commercial development in a mainly residential area. The developer is now seeking to modify the scheme and make another application in the near future.

Vision to transform Greater Cambridge bus network outlined by Greater Cambridge Partnership in report to September Assembly and public consultation this autumn

A plan for the Greater Cambridge area will include more bus services and cheaper fares is being put to the September meetings of the GCP Assembly and Board. The future bus network could mean a bus every ten minutes in Cambridge, and from larger towns and villages –plus a new hourly service from rural areas - to improve access and increase opportunities for people living and working in the Greater Cambridge area. Other

improvements could include buses available over longer hours and more direct services to reduce circuitous routes, improve reliability and journey times.

The plan proposes ways to generate funding – such as a parking, pollution or a congestion charge - as current and future traffic levels would prohibit improved services in the city centre.

The proposals are part of the Greater Cambridge Partnership's vision for a network that links the planned segregated busways and the Greenways active travel routes. GCP will work in partnership with Cambridgeshire County Council and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority to deliver this transformation.

Subject to agreement from the Joint Assembly and Executive Board this September, the GCP will launch public consultation this autumn.

The paper also sets out plans to work with the Combined Authority and bus operators to support a bid to government to secure funding for new zero emission buses to operate in Greater Cambridge. The City Access report can be read in the GCP Joint Assembly agenda for 9 September 2021

Council commits to resettle refugees from Afghanistan

Three families from Afghanistan will be provided a home and essential support by South Cambridgeshire District Council in response to the international crisis. We have also said we will continue to work with Government and other agencies monitoring the crisis. This may mean further families could be supported to start a new life if funding is available and the right homes can be found. Three large homes have been sourced for the families. These are not part of the Council's social housing stock so those on the Council's waiting list will not be affected.

The initial three Afghan families will be supported by the Council to relocate to the UK through the Afghan Locally Employed Support (LES) scheme. The support follows commitments in recent years to provide homes to refugees from Syria, Iran and Sudan. Four

families were housed under the previous scheme by the Council and in December 2020 a further commitment to support up to an additional four families per year was made.

The Council worked with an existing resettlement team and support workers at Cambridge City Council to integrate families who arrived during 2019/2020 into their new homes and communities, to ensure practical support was in place. Any new families arriving through the LES scheme will similarly need to be provided support and the Council is working on the detail of how that support will be provided through local partnerships.

£30,000 for local organisations supporting families and vulnerable people in your Parish

As part of Cambridgeshire County Council's Covid Local Support Grant, £30,000 has been given to a range of local organisations in South Cambridgeshire to support families over the summer months with food, fuel and other emergency supplies.

The educational charity Cambridge Online has received a grant of £15,000 to support 105 families who are financially vulnerable. The money will buy equipment to help refurbish laptops and buy tablets and data packages for online access. They also provide free ongoing support to all families who use the service. The aim of the new scheme is to provide computer devices and internet connections to help South Cambridgeshire families and households gain online access for education, to access services or for social interaction. For more information and to apply for the scheme go to the Cambridge Online website.

A new website for South Cambridgeshire – get your local businesses to sign up.

Our Business Support team is working on a new website to promote everything there is to see and do in South Cambridgeshire, to support the local economy by encouraging tourists to visit the area and local people to spend more time in the district. Ahead of the site's launch in the autumn, the team is inviting local businesses and event organisers to secure a free listing by submitting information and photos online via a short questionnaire. Please feel free to share our Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or LinkedIn posts within your communities to encourage anyone who runs a hospitality, leisure or tourism business, or a local green space or event, to sign up. They can visit www.VisitSouthCambs.co.uk to create a free listing, or email visit@scambs.gov.uk for any further information.

Council High Streets team passes milestone of 1,000 visits and enquiries

A Council team set-up to help South Cambridgeshire's businesses re-open safely has passed the milestone of 1,000 interactions with local traders in a year.

The Council's Reopening High Streets Safely Team, funded by the EU, was established in July 2020 and during the last year, the small team of three officers has visited around 700 businesses to provide them with face-to-face advice, and dealt with more than 300 enquiries, concerns and queries that have come into the Council. Whether it be providing banners, signage and stickers to help promote a "Shop local, stay safe" message, assisting with COVID-19 risk assessments, clarifying rapidly changing guidelines or offering advice on cleaning, the team has provided a wide range of support during the past year – all aimed at keeping customers and staff safe.

Since legal restrictions eased in July 2021, the team's High Street Business Support Officers have been continuing to carry out supportive visits and gathering information on what COVID-19 measures businesses are keeping in place to help reassure shoppers.

Since 19 July 2021, the team has visited almost 130 South Cambridgeshire businesses and out of these, around half have stated that they are keeping all existing COVID-secure measures in place, approximately 40% have said that they are keeping some measures in place, and just 4% have said that they are not keeping any measures in place.

Pay Award for South Cambs Staff

We have reached an agreement with the unions (GMB and UNISON) on the 2021/22 pay award for staff. Following a ballot of their members, the unions have accepted our 2.5% offer for the year. This consists of an increase to all South Cambridgeshire District Council pay points, a one-off 'thank you' payment of £100 and an extra pro-rata day of leave for each member of staff to show how much we value the huge dedication, commitment and professionalism that they continue to demonstrate during an incredibly challenging period. The increase in pay together with our £10 minimum wage will enable us to be competitive in a very tight labour market here in the Cambridge area.

Increased demand on Urgent and Emergency Care and GPs

As we move out of lockdown, Urgent and Emergency Care and GPs are experiencing an increase in demand on their services. The CCG are reminding people to Think 111 First. If they think they need urgent or emergency care, then local people are encouraged to contact NHS 111 either on the telephone or online, or to consider visiting a pharmacy for advice about a range of conditions including hay fever, colds, and allergies.

Six Free Trees

South Cambs is offering six free trees this year as part of its Zero Carbon strategy. Details here <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/nature-and-climate-change/six-free-trees/>

Great Wilbraham Issues

Church Close and parking

We have been working with both County and District officers in relation to parking issues in Church Close, including the problem of parking close to the junction with Church Street. The matter is now with District housing officers to investigate what, if any measures, might be taken to ease the parking situation. Officers have been considering what actions to take. There is, however, a limit on space in Church Close which also allows some parking for residents of Toft Way, to expand the parking area and therefore the more vehicles there are, the more there are likely to be congestion problems.

Repairs to Footpaths and Cycling

These issues are dealt with in Councillor Daunton's County Report.