

District Councillor report to Parish Council September 2021

The Local Plan up to 2041

On the 31st August the documents for the proposed Local Plan were released by the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service governed by South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council. The Local Plan sets out where development of housing and commercial sites will be situated during the planning period. The current documents are out for consultation but give a clear indication of what is proposed by the administrations. The following link will allow you to access the proposals and see where development has been proposed.

<https://maps.3csharedservices.org/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a6742a84b6aa418f8b1e41315c2b8845>

The Local Plan is compiled by the process below:



The Council has gone through going out for a call for sites and then Councillors and officers deciding which out of those proposed developments they want to include within the Local Plan. Ultimately the Council will have to come forward with a credible plan that will pass a planning inspectorate to show it delivers housing for growth within the Local Plan area. There has been consultation at each stage of the Local Plan process and now that the proposals have been put forward, Parish Councils and residents will be consulted again at this stage.

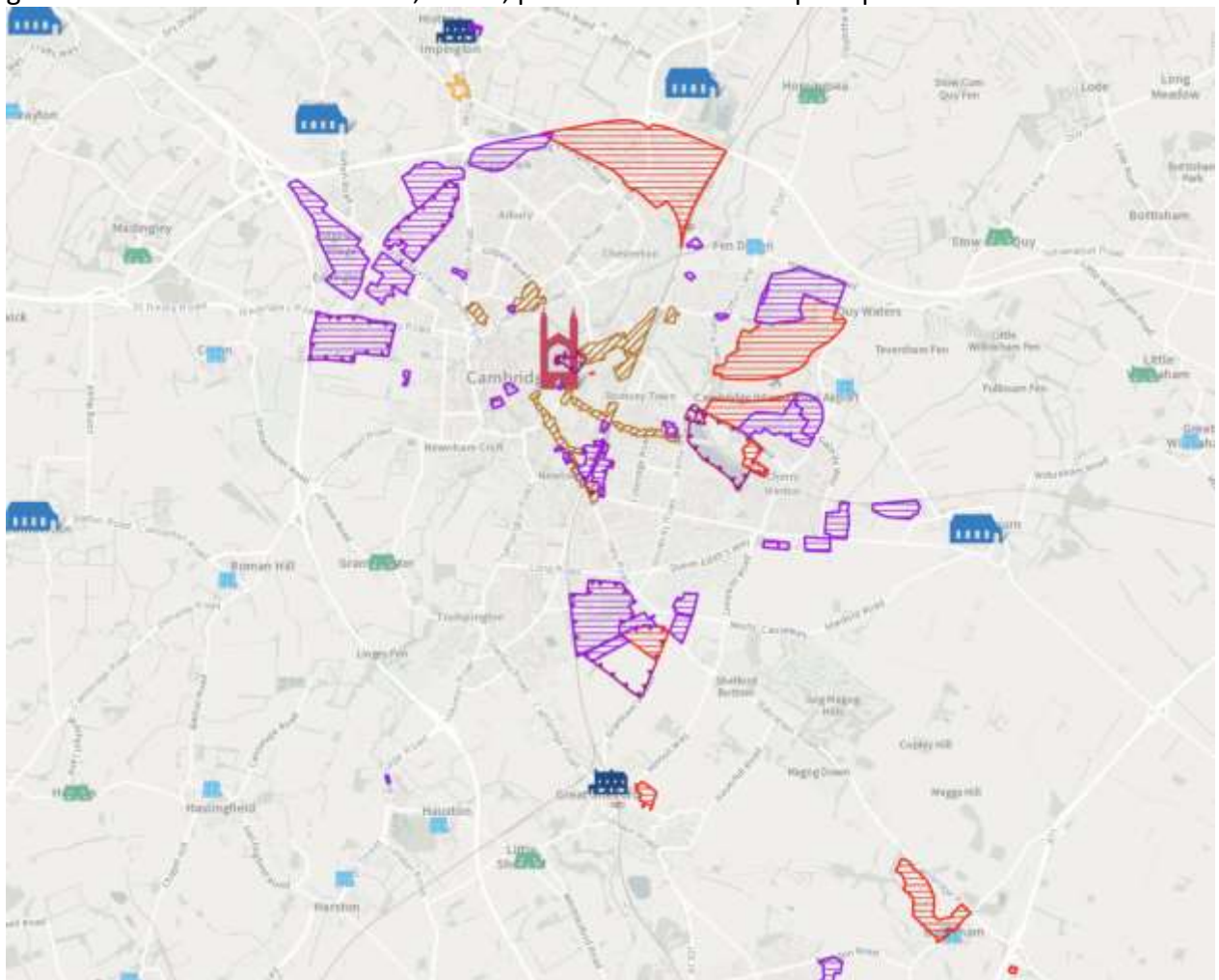
The proposed Local Plan will have huge impacts on the Fen Ditton and Fulbourn ward and I am sure that all the parishes within the area will want to make comments on these proposals. As District Councillor, I will be raising several concerns regarding the proposals put forward. My initial concerns are that around 48,840 houses are included within this Local Plan which is above and well beyond what the Government's calculated need suggests. I also have concerns about the rate of build out that is proposed because I am worried about how achievable this is given build out rates are at the discretion of developers. It is also noted that the proposed developments within this Local Plan, especially those around the city, are very dense, cramming lots of houses into small spaces, this will have a big impact on communities and residents' privacy in relation to garden space etc.

Water is also a concern given the existing pressures on chalk streams and water supply in our area. 48,840 houses using 80 litres a day equates to over a billion litres of a water

needed every year, if the house numbers were lower, the water demand would also reduce. This has already been challenged by councillors and the response has been it is for others to sort the water problem, but it seems unreasonable to pass the buck when so many more houses are being proposed. Requiring this amount of housing within the Local Plan with the infrastructure not being there is a worry. I have concerns about how growth has been calculated within the Local Plan and will have questions for officers about how this Local Plan has been derived.

Concerns relevant to the Fen Ditton and Fulbourn ward

- You will see from the maps below that within this Local Plan the East of Cambridge seems to be affected more than anywhere else in the Local Plan area with the two massive sites being situated on the airfield site, North of Cherry Hinton and the NECAAP (North East Cambridge Area Action Plan) site meaning that our villages will get the lion share of disturbance, traffic, pollution and loss of open space.



- I was concerned that the relocation of the Water Treatment Plant has not featured at all in the Local Plan, it is not highlighted on the map at all. You would think looking at this map that NECAAP is just a large brownfield site development. We know better than anyone in this area that that is false because the Councils have asked Anglian Water to relocate the Water Treatment plant to Honey Hill (in greenbelt) to allow this development to happen. This is misleading at best.



- There is, I hope, a mistake on the virtual map on the Fulbourn Hospital site indicating that 213 houses are going to be built on the Fulbourn Hospital site and then this is then repeated on the Ida Darwin site as existing development. This at first glance is incorrect but I will be raising this and getting confirmation that it's not actually extra houses that are now being proposed in 2 locations. It is really important that allocated sites and numbers are correct.
- It is worth noting that the purple on the maps shown relates to designated sites within the current Local Plan. Again, I hope the public are not misled by this, because many of the sites in purple have had additional housing numbers added to them which will form part of the 2041 Local Plan. A good example of this is Waterbeach New Town where the administration has already given permission for 11,000 houses as opposed to the current local plan of 8,000-9,000 meaning an extra

2,000-3,000 houses have been given permission before the 2041 Local Plan is even consulted on. This will have a huge impact on traffic through Horningsea and Fen Ditton and put huge pressure on the infrastructure.

Phase 2 consultation for Water Treatment Plant

I have continued to engage with Anglian Water, officers at SCDC and put questions forward to the cabinet at SCDC regarding the water treatment plant. I have also made a submission to the phase 2 consultation, essentially my response was that I remain against the selected site (as was my response in the phase 1 consultation) but given that this is the site that has now been selected, my main concerns were around access and making sure that the site has as little impact on both Horningsea and Fen Ditton as possible. I will continue to work with Anglian Water to get the best out of this site as possible as it is Cllrs that want this particular site for development. Anglian Water are not to blame for this moving. It is the Council that has asked Anglian Water to move. The access option that I supported was option 3. I agreed with virtually everything that Fen Ditton Parish Council put forward in their consultation response. I would say the only area that I differed was on the education centre as I do believe some form of education centre on site would be appropriate given the stress on water in this area and the importance of educating future generations on sustainability.

Free trees for Parish Councils

Please remember that the deadline for applying for six free trees from the District Council is the 30th September.

Thank you for taking the time to read my report; if you have any questions or want to discuss any of the issues raised email me on graham.cone@councillor.online or ring 07595361285 (please leave a voice mail if I am unavailable)

Councillor Graham Cone