

May 2008

# Growth Updates

Newsletter



## Southern Fringe

### Bell School

This is intended to go to June 11<sup>th</sup> 2008 Joint Development Control Committee.

### Clay Farm

It is scheduled to be considered by the Joint DC Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2008.

### Trumpington Meadows

Following the approval of outline planning permission at February's Joint Development Control Committee, the follow-up report relating to the S106 Agreement and amendments to draft conditions has been moved back to the June 11<sup>th</sup> Joint DC Committee. This is due to competing pressures faced by South Cambridgeshire officers in relation to Northstowe.

### Bell School

This is also expected to go to the June 11<sup>th</sup> Joint DC Committee.

### Glebe Farm

The consultation period for the applications 08/0361/OUT & 08/0363/OUT ended 30<sup>th</sup> April. The responses are currently being analysed.

For more information, please contact Sharon Brown, Major Developments Manager, ☎01223 457294 or via email

[Sharon.Brown@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:Sharon.Brown@cambridge.gov.uk)

## Eco- Towns Proposals

In mid-April, the Government announced its short-list of 15 proposed Eco-Towns, including 15,000 homes at Hanley Grange, near Hinxton in South Cambridgeshire (plus three others in the Eastern region). These Eco-Towns would be in addition to the existing plans for major development. Following public consultation (which runs until 30<sup>th</sup> June), the Government will identify ten schemes to be developed. Cambridgeshire Horizons is drafting a response that will oppose the Hanley Grange option.

Reasons for opposing the Eco-Town proposals, in particular the scheme earmarked at Hanley Grange, include the following:

- The proposals undermine the planning system and cut across existing plans for Growth.
- The sustainability of the proposals are doubtful.
- Hanley Grange could lead to an increase in traffic in the sub-region.
- It could squeeze the resources for delivering agreed Growth in the city/sub-region, which could significantly reduce public confidence in the Growth agenda.

## Station Area (CB1)

Responses will be reviewed at the end of the consultation period on the CB1 Masterplan application. Alternatives to the northern access route are still being explored. A detailed application for the Station Square is expected by the end of May this year.

## North West Cambridge

### North West Cambridge Area Action Plan (AAP)

The Area Action Plan was considered and approved by both South Cambridgeshire District Council and the City Council last month. The AAP will be submitted to the Secretary of State on 19th May and a six-week consultation period will follow, finishing on 30th June 2008.

For more information, please contact Sara Cass, Urban Extensions Project Manager ☎01223 457186 or email [Sara.Cass@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:Sara.Cass@cambridge.gov.uk)

## Partnership Issues

### JSGIC

The Joint Strategic Growth Implementation Committee met on 9th April. Amongst other issues, it considered the response to the announcement of Hanley Grange as a short-listed Eco-Town proposal and the evaluation of the carbon impact of Growth proposals in the sub-region. There was also an update on the planning and delivery of education provision to meet the needs of a growing population.

### The Transport Forum

The Terms of Reference for the Forum were agreed at the April JSGIC meeting. A strategy for how it will be able to engage with other groups was also agreed.

## Northstowe

The Joint DC Committee in April was given an informal brief on the main issues arising from the responses to the Northstowe consultation and officers' assessment of the application. This covered the following issues: -

- The external impact of Northstowe on the wider area.
- The phasing of the development.
- The quality of the emerging masterplan and vision.
- Interpretation of the requirement for Northstowe to be 'an exemplar of sustainability.'
- Management and governance issues.
- The need for additional information and clarification.

## Northern Fringe East

The report commissioned by Horizons examining the viability of redevelopment options for CNFE is being finalised by the consultants. Although the study is not yet complete, it is clear from the work done so far that comprehensive redevelopment on the entire Northern Fringe East site will not be viable in the foreseeable future. On this basis, the relocation of the Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Works is not deliverable and the works would therefore be retained on the current site. The study, which is due to be published later this month, will also report on options for redevelopment of the rest of the site, taking into account existing uses.

A Development Plan Steering Group meeting has been arranged for 13th May 2008 to consider the findings of the report, and agree a way forward for the Core Strategy.

For more information, please contact: Brian Human, Head of Policy & Projects ☎01223 457104 or via email [Brian.Human@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:Brian.Human@cambridge.gov.uk)

## **Working Together to Deliver Growth – Current Projects & Resourcing**

### **Local Delivery Vehicle (LDV) Funding**

Projects being funded via the Government's 2007/08 LDV funding stream were completed by the end of March. This enabled the City Council to submit a claim for over £340,000.

### **Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF)**

Councils in the sub-region have made a number of expressions of interests for CIF funding. These include one for Cambridge Station 'Gateway Improvements' (e.g. better traffic management). We are likely to hear by the end of May whether this bid will progress to full application stage. City and County Council officers are working on the details. CIF is aimed at medium-scale transport schemes that are deliverable by March 2011, which would unlock large-scale housing development and improving the sustainability of growth areas.

### **The Abbey Plan**

The research, commissioned by Marshalls to highlight the need for improvements to the quality of life and the environment in Abbey, has been completed, and Community Development has received the report. It focuses on the potential for creating a community hub including a community centre, housing, library and enterprise centre. Conclusions and proposals will be presented at a meeting to be attended by the Head of Community Development on 13th May.

## **Staffing**

The interview process for the new Head of Service for the Joint Urban Design Team took place in late April. An offer has been made. Once the details of the appointment are confirmed, the response to the recent consultation on the joint team working arrangements will be considered.

We are exploring our options/alternative ways to fill the three vacant senior planner posts in the Major Developments team after suitable candidates did not emerge from last month's interviews.

## **Recreation Ground Improvements**

Active Communities will shortly be letting contracts totalling £430,000 for improvements to three of the City's established Recreation Grounds at Thorpe Way, Ramsden Square and Nightingale Avenue. The funding has been secured through off-site Section 106 contributions from the East and South Areas, and will provide a wide range of enhancements including multi-use games areas, new play and skate facilities and an additional tennis court.

## **Social Infrastructure**

Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service has been commissioned to organise four information days, one in each of the neighbourhoods adjacent to major growth sites. The aim of these events will be to inform community, voluntary and third sector groups from, or serving the area, about plans for proposed development. This will build on work sponsored by the Improving Health Partnership to ensure local people are involved in helping to shape and integrate new communities.

## **Indoor Sports Provision**

The Active Communities team is working with the County Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council to take forward an assessment of formal Indoor Sports provision (swimming provision and indoor sports halls) for the City and the major growth sites. This work has been commissioned through Sport England who utilise the nationally recognised 'Facilities Planning Model'. The study will comprise:

- An audit of existing provision against nationally recognised standards
- Identification of future requirements up to 2021 both for the City, and for the fringe areas of major growth.

It is anticipated that the resulting study will be used to inform future community sport and growth investment strategies.

For more information, please contact Tim Wetherfield, Urban Growth Manager ☎01223 457313 or via email [Tim.Wetherfield@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:Tim.Wetherfield@cambridge.gov.uk)

## Forthcoming events/Diary dates

14th May	Joint Development Control Committee – Small Hall, The Guildhall
21 <sup>st</sup> May	Launch of the Quality Charter
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Annual Council Meeting
23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Joint Strategic Growth Implementation Committee (JSGIC)
11 <sup>th</sup> June	Joint Development Control Committee - The University Centre, Granta Place, Mill Lane
11 <sup>th</sup> June	Horizons Board
13 <sup>th</sup> June	Horizons Conference (incl. official launch of Strategic Housing Market Assessment)

## For Comments and Further Information

Preparations for Growth are taking place across the City Council's services. The issues covered by this newsletter are being extended to reflect the range of that activity. The key contacts on these issues are as follows: -

Tim Wetherfield – Urban Growth Project Manager ☎ 01223 457313

Sara Cass – P&P Urban Extensions Project Manager ☎ 01223 457186

Sharon Brown – Major Developments Manager ☎ 01223 457 294

Julian Adams – Community Services Growth Projects Officer ☎ 01223 457617

## How to Contact Cambridge City Council

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