

## **Southern Fringe Community Forum – 1/3/11**

### **Overview**

The first Southern Fringe Community Forum was held at Fawcett Primary School on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March.

Invitees were from Resident Associations across the southern part of the city, 2000 households in Trumpington, Haslingfield Parish Council, local members and stakeholders including developers, Police, NHS, Cambridgeshire Partnerships and Cambridgeshire Horizons.

The event was divided in to two sessions, the first a drop-in between 4.30pm and 6.30pm. This enabled the community see maps, plans and design codes for each site, and quadrant as a whole, as well as talk and raise issues with planners, community officers and developers. Barratts from Trumpington Meadows also brought a display.

The second part of the evening was the formal forum between 7pm and 8.45pm chaired by Cllr Andy Blackhurst. The top table of members, and some senior officers of both Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Council, including the joint director Peter Studdert answered questions from the floor and introduced presentations and items on street naming, education provision and feedback from work within the task/working groups.

Excluding agency officers and workers the event in total attracted 81 residents.

### **Issues raised**

**Q** - Construction management – Use of Shelford Rd for heavy plant, is this intended to continue for the spine road and house construction? What are the timelines for site works in future?

*A - A full plan has been approved for the spine road and is due to be completed in June this year. That is all that has been approved for that access.*

*Helen Shaw (planning officer) - still in discussions for approving strategic construction environmental management plan for others, and it will need to go to committee where concerns can be raised. This resident was to give her address to Helen Shaw so she could be kept informed.*

*Site works at present, are to do with levels, eg earth movement for drainage. Glebe Farm construction work starts in May, Clay Farm showground site in July. A fuller timetable will be brought to the next Forum.*

**Q** - Traffic – Access to points on various sites, traffic ‘census’ information, cycle path information.

*A - Volumes have reduced with the opening of the Addenbrookes Access Road and it is hoped that residents of the new development would use the bus or bike to where they work, as so close to the City Centre. Not anticipating traffic levels to be higher, but indeed less than they were before.*

*The Access Road should extract traffic away from other busy roads, but the road is still an alternative route.*

**Q** - Open Space – Wildlife information and dog management plan.

*A - Assuming the area between Hobsons Brook and the green corridor – there is space for wildlife, allotments and green playing field. The intention is to keep this free. The more*

*intensive wildlife areas in tree belts are being retained in biodiversity and there are issues about keeping dogs and children from these areas.*

*There are 4 balancing ponds within the green corridor – the largest, which is almost a lake, has been made inaccessible to dogs/humans using ditches and hedges. The other 3 are accessible, with a swan living on one pond.*

**Q** - Community Safety – Where the best place to consider implications of community safety within the new developments should be.

*A - This is considered through the Community Safety Partnerships, which is where any issues in the new communities will be picked up. This Forum will be the place to raise any issues.*

**Q** - Council Owned land on Clay Farm – What are the plans so far and when will details be available.

*A - The community building brief was developed and accepted through the planning process. Alan Carter's team will be revisiting the detailed spec to prepare a brief for procuring the architect design service. The delivery of housing and prevailing market conditions will dictate how quickly the development moves forward. It is anticipated that within 12 months we will procure the design team and have a spec. Plans for joint use facilities at Clay Farm are at an early stage, but expectation is that the community will be involved in the discussions. There needs to be a balance around development and resources, and there is current work now around different elements of joint use facilities as well as other facilities attached to schools etc. There is a longer-term need to ensure, extension to schools are managed differently to those that are free standing. Models of management discussion haven't taken place yet as the options may be different than currently available. More detail will be available in next few weeks via Alan Carter and at the next SF Forum.*

**Q** - Border zones between existing housing and new developments.

*A - The green buffer strip is about 20 metres across and the maintenance will be the responsibility of the City Council once it is handed over.*

**Q** - Parking – The small amounts allowed leading to overspill in other areas.

*A - Parking is always difficult to get right. Allocation is 1 – 2 spaces per property + 25% visitor parking spaces. It is hoped there wouldn't be overspill into the Park and Ride site but if it does, it may be evening and weekends when its not used or to capacity, however can't stop people parking there. There is a high level of cycle spaces are provided – 1 per bedroom, so a balance has to be struck.*

**Q** - Education – Admission process to allow phased access to new schools as residents move in to the area.

*A - The County Council have no discretion on this and can't do anything different at present, however, they will take this away to consider.*

**Q** - Street naming – Who is consulted, how suggestions are taken forward have the listed produced by both Trumpington Residents Association and Haslingfield Parish Council been received.

*A - It was confirmed that suggestions from the Trumpington Residents Group and Local History Group had been received and had been put forward to Countryside. Haslingfield suggestions had not been received and they should be forwarded asap. Firstly need agreement from Countryside as to which names could be used. Then consultees will be asked for preferences within that list.*

**Q** - Community Work – Lessons learned from other developments, local history groups.

*A - For new communities there is a lot of help from J Rowntree Foundation and every intention is to not reinvent the wheel but look at what has been done/learnt elsewhere. South Cambridgeshire District Council have got experience - lessons learned and what we are proud*

*of, at both Cambourne and Orchard Park. We are part of a network of 9 new developments across the Country. The project started last year, which SCDC hosted a visit last year and are getting round on site visits of the other projects. There is a national conference later this year bring together the experience.*

*The Local History Group and Haslingfield are providing guides to new residents. It is envisaged that there will be a couple of trails for people to get an understanding of the rich history of Trumpington and other villages. The electronic resources project dovetails with this and includes iphone apps and a website to encourage new residents to get to know the area to give people a sense of belonging.*

**Q - S106 – Process for the use of s106 funds.**

*A - The City council is working on greater transparency around s106 contributions but all contributions for these main development sites are closely monitored and spent only where the agreement allows. For SCDC, S106 money / allocation is accessible on the website. Working closely with County and BPHA to ensure joined up across agencies with established systems and information openly available.*

**Q - Removal of trees on Long Road**

*A – When the Clay Farm outline application was considered in May 2008 the position of the junction in Long Road was approved. At this time two alternative junction layouts were being considered, both which would have an impact on the Long Road plantations, but one of these would also have resulted in the loss of two of the mature horse chestnut trees and two young field maples. (see*

*[http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/public/councillors/agenda/2008/0514jdc/04\\_3.pdf](http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/public/councillors/agenda/2008/0514jdc/04_3.pdf)*

*Subsequent discussions supported the view that it would be preferable to move the junction south, avoiding the loss of the mature horse chestnuts. This was included in the spine road application, approved by JDCC on 14 July 2010. This included the total loss of 686 trees in the Long Road plantation, 381 of these under the footprint of the spine road. However, the majority of these are self-set, naturally generated Sycamore. Lack of management has led to the plantations being generally low quality with low species diversity. During the design work, detailed tree surveys had been carried out to identify particularly significant trees, and to minimise the loss of these.*

*The accompanying Plantation Management Plan includes replanting of a woodland edge mix of trees and shrubs, totally nearly 700 in total (holly, guelder rose, hazel, rowan, field maple, and hawthorn). Within the retained plantations, enhancement planting will be carried out, replacing poor specimens of sycamores and enhancing woodland edges.*

*Works to the remainder of the plantations has recently been approved. This will involve significant thinning, to allow the better quality trees to reach maturity, with similar replanting.*

*In addition to all the trees to be planted along the roads and within the open spaces to be created within the residential area, the Clay Farm development includes the creation of a new piece of strategic public open space in the green corridor over 40 hectares in size. This will include woodland blocks and belts, hedgerows and shrub areas and mown and meadow grassland areas.*