

**Southern Fringe Community Forum**  
**7pm, Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2014**  
**Trumpington Meadows Primary School**

Chair

Cllr Andy Blackhurst

Ward Councillor for Trumpington

Lead Officers

Liz Bisset

Director, Customer and Community Services (Cambridge City Council)

Presenters

Mike Ovenden

Principal Planner (Cambridge City Council)

Vicky Hathrell

Southern Fringe Community Development Officer (Cambridge City Council)

Nadine Black

Public Art Officer (Cambridge City Council)

Neville Gaby

Artist – Cambridge Community Collection

Sam Wilkinson

Trumpington Meadows Land Company

Andy Robinson

Future City East

Sarah Tovell

Open space officer – Cambridge City Council

Guy Belcher

Nature Conservation Projects Officer – Cambridge City Council

**Welcome and Introduction**

The Chair welcomed all and updated the meeting on local activity.

The agenda was introduced and the first speaker invited.

**1. Site overview**

Mike Ovenden presented an overview of the sites across the Southern Fringe covering:

- Recent planning approvals
- Occupations
- Likely future applications

*See attached presentation.*

## **2. Sub group up-date**

Vicky Hathrell reminded the meeting of the constituents of the sub-group, which included voluntary groups, residents, local agency workers as well as local authority officers to meet the needs of new residents and integration with existing communities.

Future community events include:

Volunteer's event on the 25<sup>th</sup> June with a showcase of all local clubs, events and volunteering opportunities.

Tour de France on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July with big screens to watch the cycling and opportunities for bicycle repair.

Annual report launch – a report on all community activities over the last 12 months and numbers of local people involved.

## **3. Public Art**

**3a** Nadine Black introduced the background to the commission for Cambridge Community Collection, a piece of work to tie areas and communities together via pathways and new developments.

Neville Gabie, having seen a scion of Newton's apple in the Botanic Garden, saw the similarities between grafting apple tree cuttings onto established rootstock, and linking the new developments around Cambridge into the existing community. Using this metaphor, 1,200 apple trees will be planted, each with a different variety along pathways and routes from the city outwards. For further information visit:

<http://www.cambridgecommunitycollection.co.uk/>

*See attached presentation*

Q: Where are they to be planted near here?

A: There will be lots in and around Trumpington, from the spine road in Clay Farm, to the TM's Country Park, to Addenbrookes and the other major developments also.

Q: Who will maintain the trees?

A: It won't be the City Council responsibility, a friends group will be set up to oversee and continue the project with adoption and work with schools as a major part of this. Many of the trees won't need maintenance and are intended to grow wild. A system to plot and log each tree will be instigated to ensure each one is identifiable.

**3b** Sam Wilkinson from Trumpington Meadows Land Company introduced public art work taking place in and around Trumpington

Meadows. This included the artist in residence Caroline Wright who rather than producing large sculptural pieces concentrates on smaller events and temporary works that look at the history of a place and communication therein. Prominent pieces are the golden bricks used within new houses in Trumpington Meadows that sit over the intersection of where historic former buildings once stood. Within the new Country Park existing materials have been used to design play areas as well and mown grass features and temporary planting sessions with schools. Work around allotments and the use of food as a tool to bring people together is a part of another artist's work on Trumpington Meadows.

*See attached presentation*

**3c** Andy Robinson, from arts commissioning body Future City, introduced events and pieces of work on and around Clay and Glebe farm developments. These included:

A sculpture to encourage biodiversity and insects, 'a new home for bugs, a large sculpture on Hobson Square based on Bronze Age dwelling post holes, works in the Green Corridor play areas, seating, the brook and bird screens made from recycled oak and ash from the site. Other works include murals on the gable end of buildings, design of glass acoustic screening and works on the allotments and public furniture.

Q: Are the formal sports fields for public use?

A: The sports fields are for the use of both the secondary school and community use.

## **4. Open Space**

**4a** Sarah Tovell introduced the land transfer process from developers to the local authority for continued maintenance, the range of different type of open space and the timings for them coming forward for opening. The way in which allotment allocation is determined was outlined and an invitation to submit any ideas for the naming of any new particular pieces of land was given.

**4b** Guy Belcher described the way in which a nature conservation strategy in conjunction with the Wildlife Trust has been adopted and that the larger pieces of green space in the developments will bring further bio diversity. Previously, although in the green belt, the land being built on was singularly arable and intensive farming had

restricted some natural development. There are opportunities for skylark, brown hares and a range of wet land birds which have already started using the large attenuation ponds on clay farm. Plantations have been thinned, managed and coppiced to add diversity. Piles of deadwood have also been used as places for a range of smaller animals and insects to inhabit on site.

*See attached presentation*

Q: How is graffiti being tackled on the CGB?

A: Graffiti is dealt with in the same way it is all around the city. If offensive, it has high priority and is removed as soon as possible.

Q: There seem to be a lot of crows on Novo.

A: Corvids thrive on the edge of a town where they have access to forage and arable space to breed and live.

## **5 Questions from the floor.**

Q: Are you the only Councillor here Cllr Blackhurst?

A: Yes

Q: From the presentations tonight I'm not encouraged by the straight lines and sterile environment of the open space in the new developments, can anything be done?

A: We have only seen a very small proportion of the developments, when considered together and grown on a little a better, judgement can be made.

Q: Will the management of the balancing ponds ensure they are a quality amenity?

A: A water management plan between Anglian Water, who are responsible for the maintenance of the ponds, and the City Council is to be drawn up.

Cllr Blackhurst thanked all those attending and closed the meeting  
at 8.45pm