

COALITION OF PARISH COUNCILS (CPC)

Meeting on Current Planning Issues

Monday, 9th January at Bourn Village

Present: Bev Edwards, Mike Radford, Lorraine Mooney (Barton), Steve Jones, Des O'Brien, Les Rolfe (Bourn), John Witherow, Mike Barnard (Boxworth), Eddie Blair (Caxton), Helen Bradbury (Coton), Howard Russel (Dry Drayton), Paul Solan (Elseworth), Josh Newman (Grantchester), Stephen Rose (Hardwick), Stuart Hawkins (Madingley), Tumi Hawkins (District Councillor Caldecote and Toft) and Mal Scofield (Newham – Observer)

Apologies: Eltisley, Eversdens, Kingston, Papworth St Agnes and Toft parish councils

Prior discussions were held with Martin Yeadon (Toft), Roger Pinner (Eltisley) and Matt Prince (Eversdens).

Minutes

The following points were discussed:

1. Cambourne to Cambridge Expressway.

Helen Bradbury (Coton) chairs the Local Liaison Forum for the Greater Cambridge City Deal's Cambourne to Cambridge busway. She outlined the off-road routes (3 and 3A) for the busway being proposed by the City Deal and presented the arguments in favour of an on-road solution (cost, technical viability, effectiveness, environmental impact). She also argued strongly against the proposed Park and Ride scheme on the southern flank of Madingley Rise, on grounds of visual impact.

The CPC **agreed** to support the off-road route being proposed by Coton Parish Council and to make this clear at the next City Deal Executive meeting on 9 February.

2. Development of 2,350 houses at West Cambourne

Eddie Blair (Caxton) outlined the proposed development of 2,350 houses (up from the 1,200 in the Local Plan), west of Cambourne. The planning application was subsequently approved by the South Cambridgeshire Planning Committee on 11th Jan. We understand that £8.7 million of Section 106 money will be channelled through the City Deal for the Cambridge to Cambourne busway.

3. Development of 3,500 houses at Bourn Airfield

Des O'Brien (Bourn district councillor and member of Bourn Parish Council) outlined the proposed development of 3,500 at Bourn Airfield and Tumi Hawkins (District Councillor Caldecote and Toft) detailed the recent changes made to the scheme, which will now come very close to Caldecote Highfields.

The CPC **agreed** to fight this proposal at the EIP site-specific hearings, which are likely to commence in April and at the District Council if a planning application is submitted before the Planning Inspector conducting the EIP has finalised her report. The CPC will organise further traffic surveys to provide further evidence on the unsustainability of the planned development. It was agreed that we should be able to identify viable fringe-of-Cambridge alternatives to Bourn, to the south near the Biomedical Park.

4. Proposed Scotland Farm Park and Ride.

Howard Russel (Dry Drayton) outlined the adverse impact this scheme would have on Dry Drayton, which already suffers from heavy traffic flows through the village. We understand that both Scotland Farm and Madingley Rise are being considered as possible sites for the Park and Ride (P&R) scheme associated with the busway.

It was **agreed** that the CPC is opposed to the P&R at Madingley Mulch because it would (i) add to congestion not reduce it; (ii) be located in a very insensitive position on the side and crest of Madingley Rise, and (iii) increase traffic through Madingley village. While we believe that it would be better to locate the P&R further west, we are concerned about Scotland Farm because of the increased traffic through Dry Drayton. We would need reassurance on how this would be controlled before we could consider this location.

5. All-ways interchange at Girton (M11/A14/A428).

Bev Edwards (Barton) and Steve Jones (Bourn) outlined the arguments in favour of an all-ways interchange at Girton. Given the planned housing developments at Cambourne (e.g., West Cambourne) and further west (e.g., St Neots), it is imperative to upgrade the junction so that traffic from the eastbound A428 can turn the south on the M11 towards the Biomedical Park and other firms south of the City of Cambridge. This will be even more important, in future, since the A428 will become an important part of the Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford expressway.

It was **agreed** that the CPC will continue to lobby nationally and locally for an all-ways interchange at Girton. This will include sending a letter to the Secretary of State, which will be signed by the Chairs of all our parish councils.

6. Elsworth and Boxwirth

We discussed a number of other planning issues, including 'rat-running' from the A14 through Elsworth and Boxworth, which we will return to in future meetings.

7. Coalition of Parish Councils' Statement of Purpose

The Coalition of Parish Councils' statement of purpose is as follows:

The new settlements of Bourn Airfield and West Cambourne are unsustainable and their inclusion in the Local Plan flies in the face of South Cambridgeshire District Council's own commitment to reduce car dependence. There are no significant plans for employment in this area and, based on the Cambourne experience, 70% of the residents of these new developments will travel to work by car. Consequently, these developments will place intolerable pressure on the already congested local road infrastructure as motorists - faced with traffic jams and hold ups - will use alternative routes through our villages. These proposed 'dormitory' settlements fail the test of

sustainability and as the elected representatives of the participating villages we are firmly opposed to their inclusion in the Local Plan and seek to have both removed.

The meeting noted that, while this purpose is still important, the CPC is also working on broader and strategic planning issues. In view of this, we propose to change our statement of purpose to

The Coalition of Parish Councils exists to voice our concerns on key strategic transport and planning issues, affecting our communities.

It was **agreed** that Steve Jones (Convenor, CPC) will write to member councils to ask them to formally approve this change.

8. Date of next meeting

It is proposed that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 4th April 2017 from 1830-2030 at Bourn Village Hall.

*Current members of the Coalition of Parish Councils: Arrington, Barton, * Bourn, Boxworth, Caldecote, Caxton, Connington, Coton, * Croxton, Dry Drayton, Elsworth, Eltisley, Eversdens, Grantchester, * Hardwick, Kingston, Knapwell, Longstowe, Madingley, Toft. (* indicates Associate Member).*

DRAFT 20 Jan 2017

The Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP
Secretary of State for Transport

cc: The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

Heidi Allen MP for South Cambridgeshire
Daniel Zeichner MP for Cambridge
Councillor Peter Topping,
Leader South Cambridgeshire District Council
Councillor Lewis Herbert,
Leader of Cambridge City Council

Dear Secretary of State,

Urgent need to upgrade the Girton Interchange (M11, A428, A14)

The Cambridge Sub-Region is one of the fastest growing areas in the UK. Currently the transport infrastructure is inadequate. Strategic improvements to the road network are essential to ease congestion and sustain economic growth.

We are a group of Parish Council Chairs representing over 20,000 people living to the west of Cambridge. We are writing to draw your attention to the urgent need to construct an all-ways interchange at Girton, north-west of Cambridge, where the M11, A428 and A14 roads meet.

An all-ways junction at the intersection of the east-west axis (A428) and the north-south axis (M11/A14) would enable fast and direct access to Cambridge City centre and to the rapidly growing Biomedical Campus to the south of the City and Stansted Airport. It would also strengthen economic growth in Cambridge and across East Anglia.

Currently, traffic from the west travelling towards Cambridge, on the A428, cannot turn south. There is an alternative route signposted from the A428 to the M11 (Junction 13), via the A1303, but it is gridlocked in the rush hour. Drivers are thus forced to cut across country on small rural roads through villages to join the M11 at Barton (Junction 12).

Over the next 10-15 years, it is planned to build over 10,000 new homes in the A428 corridor, west of Cambridge (at Cambourne and further west). The Oxford-Milton Keynes-Cambridge expressway, which includes the A428 and ends at the Girton Interchange is also likely to be completed. Given these developments and the expected rapid expansion of jobs in the Biomedical Cluster, an all-ways interchange at Girton is both urgent and imperative.

Currently, in the morning rush (7am to 9am), over 1,000 cars from the A428 corridor drive through our communities to reach the M11. With the planned housing developments this number is likely to triple to over 3,000, which would be unsustainable¹.

We have discussed the need for an upgraded interchange at Girton with Heidi Allen MP (South Cambridgeshire) and Daniel Zeichner MP (Cambridge) and our district and city councils. While there is broad agreement on the urgent need for the scheme, a push from central government will be needed to make it happen. We urge you to provide the necessary impetus.

We look forward to hearing from you. If it would be helpful, we would be pleased to meet you or your officials to provide more detail on the proposed scheme.

Yours sincerely,

Signed by Coalition of Parish Councils and all Parish Council Chairs.

¹ Data from a recent traffic survey by the Coalition of Parish Councils