

# **COALITION OF PARISH COUNCILS (CPC)**

## **Meeting on Current Planning Issues**

Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> January at Bourn Village Hall

**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 Russell (Dry Drayton), Paul Solan (Elsworth), 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 on-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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 point to viable fringe-of-Cambridge alternatives to Bourn, to the south near the Biomedical Park.

#### **4. Proposed Scotland Farm Park and Ride.**

Howard Russell (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. Both schemes would have significant adverse impacts on local communities.

#### **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, 28<sup>th</sup> March 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).*