

## Summary Report

### CAMBRIDGE NORTHERN FRINGE EAST VISIONING WORKSHOP

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> April 2013

The headline on the agenda was:

“A Vision for the area to include in the Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans”

There were a series of presentations on the local plans most of which was historic. There was some mention of past plans not being delivered as intended. However, the game changer will be the new rail station and other transport links.

The project manager of the new rail station gave a presentation and showed us some artist impressions.

The presentation on the Waste Water Treatment works by Anglian water stated that the current works were adequate for current and future demand. That Anglian Water would not fund any move from the current site. They also stated that a lot had already been done to reduce the odour problems. It must be noted that the smell on arrival was *bad*. A map was available showing the extent of the existing odour problems. There was also a one liner at the bottom of the map stating that they expect the odour problems to get worse.

A local architect made a long term vision presentation which showed the area sporting retail, street cafe's high density development etc. He envisaged a hard edge to the area, up to the current green belt. It was not clear if this vision was shared by the planners etc.

The point was made to consider the needs of the unrepresented residences of the Travellers site.

Like the Wing workshop we were split into groups with a facilitator to discuss various topics. The parish councillors were in the Community group, looking at uses, facilities, services etc.

At the outset the focus was that the area was primarily an area for employment/business growth. But this got a bit fuzzy as the day went on with discussions involving residential, retail, schools etc. Obviously the A14 featured frequently with suggestions of a parallel road for local traffic.

There was also discussions about the relocating the existing bulk terminal/facilities (within the area) but that they would still be needed for incoming aggregate for both development and the A14 improvements.

The workshop process produced pages of ideas and suggestions but there was no clear direction that I could see. The two key Critical Path issues being the odour and A14 traffic. It clearly a non-starter to be discussing retail and residential development without resolving the odour problem. This came out from most of the workgroups. Someone suggested the Brighton solution, but a quick google suggested this has not been successful. It also looks like Lincolnshire County Council is thinking about prosecuting Anglia water over the ongoing odour problems.

The risk to Fen Ditton is that the old proposal to relocate to our patch/Stow-cum-Quy is resurrected.

Most workgroups also highlighted the need for strong leadership to deliver any development and clear financial plans.

Outside the formal workgroups I had a discussion with the rail station project manager, asking him if he was aware of the emphasis Wing/Marshall's had been placing on the (new) rail links and the possible foot/cycle links to the town and station. He was not. The Transport Workgroup did include mention of possible demand for access from residences from the east side of the Cam to the new rail station and therefore adequate foot/cycle paths/bridge on both sides of the river.

The project manager offered to make a presentation to the Parish Council if required.