

Community Group Meeting
Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17 March 2016
At the University of Cambridge Primary School

Those present

Janet Bunker, Parish of the Ascension
Sarah Christensen, Lansdowne Road
Bob Dawson, NAFRA
Cllr Douglas De Lacey, South Cambridgeshire District Councillor
Sue Finer, Storey's Way Residents Association
Cllr Lynda Harford, County Councillor
Nick Lowe, Girton Baptist Church
Ann Mullinger, Windsor Road Residents Association
Margaret Reynolds, Oxford Road Residents Association

University

Heather Topel (HT)
Biky Wan
Warren Forsyth
Joshua Portway (JP) Artist-in-Residence

Apologies

Morcom Lunt, North Newnham Residents Association
Aaron Walker, NAFRA
John Chaplin, Storey's Way
Kate Ingham, Oxford Road Residents Association

1. TOUR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Heather Topel gave a tour of the first completed building on site, the University of Cambridge Primary School.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

There were no comments to the minutes from the last meeting.

Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting would be dealt with in the update by Heather Topel.

3. UPDATE ON THE PROJECT

Heather Topel gave an update on the project since the last meeting in November 2015. Key points included:

- The University of Cambridge Primary School was completed to programme in December 2015.
- All of the University contracts for Phase One have now been let.
- Construction progress on those lots is going well. The supermarket is taking its shape; plant is going into the Energy Centre; student accommodation and community centre are taking shape; work on the key worker homes is at different points of their construction programme, with some at brickwork stage and others starting. When the winter is over there will be more knowledge on the timescales for completion.
- The market housing by Hill will be the first properties for sale. They start on site next month and their sales suite will be open towards the end of the year with homes available early 2017. Countryside are working to a different programme and will separate the two lots (S1 and S2) into two separate planning applications. S2 will be coming first which is closer to the new homes and S1 will be coming later – this is the one which has boundaries with Huntingdon Road that people had concerns about and when more detail is coming later this year we will consult on these with you. We will soon announce the developer who will deliver the market housing near the cricket pitch in the centre of the site.

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- There are two key appointments made relative to the development and community. Warren Forsyth is the Operations Director for the North West Cambridge Development on behalf of the University. The Joint Venture appointed a Centre Manager who will be in post in the next couple of months and hopefully will join us at a future meeting.

4. QUESTIONS

Q: When will the supermarket be open? (Sarah Christensen)

A: The supermarket should be completed one year from now and then they will fit out their store so will probably be open in Summer 2017. (HT)

Q: Will you be able to drive into Sainsbury's (Nick Lowe)

A: There will be basement car parking for 150 cars at Sainsbury's as well as street car parking around the local centre. We understand that doing a weekly shop might not be possible to do by bike but hope that people will also cycle or walk if they can. (HT)

Q: Do you have any more information on the perimeter housing by Countryside? (Bob Dawson)

A: The programme for the Countryside proposals for S1 has changed and they are focusing on their other lot which is looking to be more dense than before and are undertaking technical assessments on this. When they've done this they will move onto the perimeter lot and the University has not seen the latest proposals for this yet. (HT)

Q: Will we be notified formally when it goes to consultation? (Bob Dawson)

A: The area sits in South Cambridgeshire so you may not be formally notified by the local authorities as you have done previously as they were in the City district and you are in the City boundary. You can still comment to the University and to South Cambridgeshire. (HT). The planning application will be determined by the Joint Development Control Committee so you can still comment (Douglas De Lacey).

Q: Who is deciding on the branding for the housing of S2? Girton is cross that there is little reference to the fact that homes are in the Girton parish boundary. I hope that the wayfinding will indicate the point where it shows the Girton Parish boundary which is used at the south and north of the boundary. (Douglas De Lacey). Can there be some consultation on the branding names? There was a lot of unhappiness at Clay Farm on the branding names and it can affect communities (Lynda Harford).

A: Countryside will decide on the branding names as they are marketing names to sell properties and they will be subject to approval from the University. Marketing names may not stick. These addresses will say Girton so that will reinforce the location of homes in the boundary. The designs of the Countryside homes have been influenced by Girton with red brick. We'll reflect on the Girton parish boundary marker question. The University has consulted widely on the neighbourhood names which we hope people will use for the long term and we will have a conversation about the branding names but hope they will be part of the overall coherent scheme for the development (Heather Topel).

Q: Girton is an important marker and there are benefits to residents available. (Douglas DeLacey) What are the benefits? (Bob Dawson).

A: There is a town charity which has money available to give away but struggles to do so, for activities within the Parish. (Douglas De Lacey).

Q: What is happening with Lot 9? (Sarah Christensen)

A: Lot 9 is the site just north of the Park and Ride. The University listened to residents who have concerns about the heights of buildings in the consultation process and consequently, this design was not pursued. We are looking for a developer for this lot and they will be bringing forward designs using the Design Code. (HT)

5. PUBLIC ART RESIDENCY ARTIST – JOSHUA PORTWAY

Joshua Portway gave an overview of his role as a residency artist. He is working with the development and the Sainsbury Laboratory to create an exhibition as part of this project and invited people to walk with him as part of this artistic research to understand views about how cities and plants grow. He is particularly interested in how

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communities and mythologies derive and bind together when a city is created instantly. There is no agenda for the walk but with permission, you may be audio recorded and that may be used as part of the exhibition. Those interested in going for a walk can contact Josh by email: josh@stain.org

Q: Is there a regular time or pattern that you go for these walks? (Margaret Reynolds).

A: I hope to schedule a few people in one day as I travel up. (JP)

Q: What comes out of the conversations and walks? (Janet Bunker)

A: Some audio and phrases may come out of the walks which are used in the art exhibition and outcomes. We work with computers a lot and are writing a simulation about how plants grow and comparing this to how cities grow. The outcome may be a series of images / animation or an interactive aspect. Plants don't have a central brain so they grow by enzymes and circumstances – I'm wording what the equivalent is for cities. Money and traffic are some key aspects that affect the growth of cities and I'm looking at modelling similarly how growth in cities is achieved. (JP)

Q: This is fascinating, is there any room for the experience of other communities in your work? I've wondered if you could look at other new communities and gone for walks there e.g. South Cambridgeshire (Lynda Harford)

A: We are thinking about growth in abstract ways. If you come for a walk that is the opportunity for some detail to be included. At the Sainsbury Laboratory they investigate all types of plants with some detail. (JP)

Comment: Some communities are unsuccessful and there is not the adequate enzyme flow to make it grow; a certain amount of success is achieved through failure and evolution. (Douglas De Lacey). We'd like to go for a walk with you together and talk about Girton (Lynda Harford and Douglas De Lacey).

Q: Who is your audience? For this community at the moment it is coming from outside of the site as the school users are the only ones here; for people who used to walk the site it is more constrained – so that is a different audience. How does this fit with the existing community development programme which has its own energy and planned activity to welcome new residents? (Bob Dawson).

A: I haven't been specifically thinking about the site and am looking at places in abstract general terms. Our proposals have changed whilst we have been here and we hope that more specifics will come from these walks. I'm interested in how people make their own communities not just how they are planned. (JP). Your neighbor, Eric Marland, has been on a walk. (HT).

6. NEXT MEETING

The Chair welcome members to invite suggestions for topics and asked Biky Wan to circulate dates for the next meeting, likely to be in June.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Margaret Reynolds on behalf of Oxford Road Residents Association and others asked if there was more information on the traffic calming measures. Heather Topel said that more information had been received by the University and would come back to residents affected by this specific matter.