



NORTH WEST CAMBRIDGE

North West Cambridge Development - Community Group Meeting
Minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2013
At Wolfson Court, Girton College, Cambridge

Those present

Morcom Lunt, Federation of Cambridge Residents' Associations and North Newnham Residents' Association (ML)
John Chaplin, Storeys Way Residents' Association (JC) (CHAIR)
Rev Janet Bunker, The Parish of the Ascension (JB)
Cllr John Hipkin, Cambridge City Council (JH)
John Gant, Girton College (JG)
Anne Rennie, Richmond Road Residents' Association (AR)
Helen Hutchinson, Windsor Road Residents' Association (HH)
Bob Dawson, Nineteen Acre Field Residents' Association (BD)
Aaron Walker, Nineteen Acre Field Residents' Association (AW)
Clare Macrae, Cambridge Transport Forum (CM)
Ann Mulliger, Windsor Road Residents' Association (AM)
Cllr John Reynolds, Cambridge City Council (JR)
Cllr Philip Tucker, Cambridge City Council (PT)

Apologies

Cllr Thomas Bygott, South Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Douglas de Lacey, South Cambridgeshire District Council
Lawrence Greene, Nineteen Acre Field Residents' Association
Hugh Taylor, Nineteen Acre Field Residents' Association
Ted Hawkins, Cambridgeshire Constabulary
Eric Marland, Lettering Artist and Member of the Public Art Advisory Panel
Dave Allen, Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service
Gillian Rogers, Tavistock Road and Stratfield Close Residents' Association
Cllr Lucy Nethsingha
Cllr Fiona Whelan
Brian Walker, Windsor Road Residents' Association
Kathryn Whyte, Oxford Road Residents' Association
Gavin Heaphy, NWCD project team, Construction Director

Project team

Roger Taylor, Project Director (RT)
Biky Wan, PR Manager (BW)
Professor Peter Gronn, Head of Faculty of Education UoC (PG)
Richard Williams, PKF LLP (RW)

1. Introductions were made

2. The minutes of the meeting were agreed and no matters arising.

JC mentioned the letter that had been circulated about Phase One which all residents had received.

3. RT gave an update on the Project and answered questions in general about the scheme.

Q: Has anything interesting been unveiled in the archaeology? (JC)

A: There is a large programme of work and there are opportunities for people to get involved and visit on-site.

Q: What will the access be for traffic along the Avenue of Chestnut Trees? (JH)

A: We will place good signage to direct people to the new temporary Community facility at Gravel Hill Farm. Access by car will be via Madingley Road and no cars will have access via Huntingdon Road. Cars will not be able to travel through the Avenue.

4. Peter Gronn gave a presentation on the concept of a University Training School (UTS). It was agreed that a summary of the UTS plans would be prepared and circulated.

The group then asked questions and raised issues which the team responded to.

Q: What are the day-to-day difference between a UTS and an average school? (BD)

A: (PG) There will be three key differences: research, specialism and architecture. There will be small-scale research, for instance in pedagogy. There may be more specialist teaching for children, for instance for those who have Special Educational Needs. Architecturally, the space may be designed so that it can cater for flexible spaces to facilitate the research.

Q: Could you clarify the parking needs of the school? (CMc) (PG had stated that the School must have adequate parking for visitors connected with the UTS specific aspects.)

A: (RT) The Outline Planning Application sets out the parking guidelines that we must adhere to and minimising car parking is important and is key in the Green Travel plan. We have reduced the number of parking spaces for key worker residents based on research of car ownership of the future potential population, and we will be promoting cycling and street car schemes. Parking for key worker residents has been limited to 50% of properties having one parking space, and this has now been reduced to 30% due to the location in proximity to the city centre and other modes of transport. The school will require parking for staff and visitors but staff, parents and students will be encouraged to walk, cycle or use public transport to the school.

Q: Is there another University Training School in Cambridge? (AW)

A: (PG): There is a University Technical College in Cambridge on Long Road, but not a University Training School. This will be the first such primary school in the country.

Q: The presentation states that it will be training, research, for a portion of the population will be transient. Is there any reassurance that the children will receive a stable education within the school? (JH)

A; (PG): The scheme is at its early days of conception. Stability is important and the projects and duration of research has not been determined yet, neither has the Head and staffing profile. We will define the vision and that paper will go forward to the University and Department for Education. We would like to consult with parents and this Forum as plans continue to develop. The Headteacher will need to be involved, as will the leading thinkers in education through the University.

Q: Is it possible to see if pedagogy translates through to its children via the parents who will be associated with the University? (JH)

A: (PG) This may create a privileged school which gives access to academics and facilities that are not afforded to other, partner schools.

Q: How can you extract and transfer the learning from one small sample to a greater number? (ML)

A: (PG) The UTS is not about creating a hot house, but the ethos is about partnerships and knowledge exchange and knowledge transfer.

Q: The three-form entry school is quite large in number; are you satisfied that the school can deliver teaching, learning and research? (JR)

A; (PG) This will be considered in working up the plan. Not all children will arrive at the beginning of North West Cambridge so it will grow gradually.

Q: Have you considered partnerships and discussions with schools in Girton? (JR)

A: (PG): We would like to consult with nearby schools about the proposals when plans are further

advanced. The Cambridge UTS initial proposals have been discussed amongst the Cambridge Partnership schools.

Q: When are you seeking approval? (BD)

A: The application for the school will be submitted to the Department for Education in late March / early April 2013. An architect is being appointed through the OJEU process with the County Council which should take approximately three months. We have an obligation to have the school ready on completion of Phase One.

Q: What is the catchment area? (ML):

A: (PG): Everything inside the city area is within the catchment.

Richard Williams then talked about the survey to support the Evidence of Demand section and invited questions to assist.

Q: How will you distribute and collect the data? (AR)

A: (RW) We would hope that members of the group would be happy to assist if possible

Q: What type of literature will accompany this? (PT)

A: (RW) We will produce some more information to allow people to understand and feel more informed. However, this would be limited at this stage and will focus on the existing demand for a new school and the high level principles of the UTS. Further and more detailed consultation will be carried out once the project moves forward to the more detailed development.

There was then a discussion about suggestions to improve the survey which included details of who to survey (parents, prospective parents, post-graduate residents at West Cambridge, and non-parents, with an appropriate look at families with appropriately aged children, for instance targeting pre-school, day groups and nurseries) and advice on exclusions for the survey distribution to avoid sensitivities (for instance Girton residents and those who fall out of the catchment area). Directional advice was also given to collect data from the County Council, health organisations and the 2011 census. The group agreed that an information leaflet to accompany they survey would be essential to providing a context and explaining the concept. The context of the information, for instance in the opening paragraph of the survey, should use unbiased language.

Q: How does the Primary School work with the school at NIAB? (JH)

A: (RT) It is understood that the first of two primary schools planned at NIAB is a single two-form entry school. A children's centre will also be situated at NIAB and the University will be making a contribution to the capital cost of this through the section 106. The signing of the NIAB s106 is understood to be anticipated at approximately the same time as the University development, so the schools may open at the same time. NIAB will be a free school and the provider will be selected by the County Council / Department for Education.

The Chair welcomed comments on the University Training School to BW.

5. Next meeting

It was decided that the next meeting should take place in May.