

## **WATERBEACH PARISH COUNCIL**

Notes from meeting held on Friday 12 September 2014 with representatives of Urban and Civic and Defence Estates at the Old Pavilion, Waterbeach.

This meeting was organised at the instigation of Defence Estates who offered to bring representatives of Urban & Civic, who will be managing the barracks site henceforward, to meet the Parish Clerk. She invited the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Parish council to join the meeting as well as District Councillor Peter Johnson.

### 1) Introductions and roles:

Liz Jones, Clerk to Waterbeach Parish Council

Michael Williamson, Chair Waterbeach Parish Council

Barbara Bull, Vice-Chair, Waterbeach Parish Council

Peter Johnson, Councillor Waterbeach Parish Council and District Councillor (left part way through the meeting)

Nigel Hugill, Chairman Urban&Civic, formerly Lend Lease Chairman and Chelsfield

Tim Leathes, Development Director for Alconbury Weald and Waterbeach

Rebecca Britton, Partnerships and Communities for Alconbury Weald and Waterbeach

James Ryley, Defence Infrastructure Organisation, Ministry of Defence

### 2) Process so far:

James Ryley went through:

- the OJEU process which MOD had been through to appoint a Development Manager
- the role of the Development Manager in site management, planning process and delivery
- clarity that the Engineers would not be returning and that there would be no future military use of the site

### 3) Local background:

Parish representatives went through:

- history of Waterbeach development proposals over the last 12 years
- the Community views including recent surveys on development
- specific issues and views related to moving the rail station and need for road infrastructure improvements
- specific local asks from the community concerning need for expansion of the cemetery, loss of use of fishing lake, golf course and access and state of the memorial garden
- ask about local employment opportunities and other community benefits
- U&C said it was early days and they needed to understand the issues and demand before committing, but were keen to work with the parish on each of those asks.

MW and NH also had a discussion about the demographic patterns in the Cambridge sub-region, and the latest statistics on demand for rental housing north of Cambridge.

### 4) U&C aspirations:

- MW asked U&C about aspirations based on local press coverage. NH stressed the press release was developed with DIO and based on desk-top studies necessary to submit a bid to DIO. Those studies showed the site had the capacity for 6,500 homes. Desk-top and without full engagement was not

normally the way that U&C work, and they are keen to work with the community to develop and progress plans for the site. This has been done at Alconbury Weald, and U&C happy to offer a tour of the site and introductions to those we have worked with locally, if helpful.

- U&C are keen to meet with the full Parish Council as soon as possible and agree a regular form of engagement with them to progress these discussions. They also discussed the option of funding a planning officer to work with the Parish Council to support councillors with independent advice through the process, and the potential for working groups on key topics and issues raised.

- On working with RLW, TL said that they were looking to work with RLW but they were not sure where that would end up at this early stage.

- U&C ended with ensuring that the PC knew they could contact U&C at any time for further discussion, with Rebecca Britton the primary point of contact, followed by Tim Leathes. They hope to be on site within the next few weeks in a site office.

The Parish Council representatives asked both Defence Estates and U&C to attend the public meeting in Waterbeach on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September in order to explain their position to the wider community.