

## **NOTES FROM INFORMAL VIRTUAL DISCUSSION MEETING ARRANGED BY WATERBEACH PARISH COUNCIL ON TUESDAY 18 MAY 2021**

The meeting was attended by a number of Parish Councillors and the District Councillors for Waterbeach together with 16 members of the public.

The meeting welcomed the participation of the new Parish Councillor Naomi Wright and District Councillor Paul Bearpark in the discussion on the following items.

### **1. PROPOSED NEW GAS ROUTE THROUGH WATERBEACH TO GLASSHOUSE SITE BASED NEAR STRETHAM 21/00360/VARM**

The meeting discussed the proposed laying of a new gas supply through the village of Waterbeach to supply glasshouses built near Stretham. The application for the build of the glass houses was approved by East Cambs District Council in 2016. A subsequent amendment application has been submitted. The original application suggested that the gas supply would be picked up from the north of Cambridge but unfortunately there is not sufficient capacity. The route will start in Milton and follow the A10 into Waterbeach and out across farm land towards Stretham.

Concerns were raised about the proposal on the following issues:

- Major disruption to the traffic and residents of Waterbeach.
- An alternative route should be considered with less use of village roads and ideally no such use.
- Concerns of the village not being listened to as insufficient consultation\*\*\*.
- Why can a renewable energy not be used instead of natural gas?
- Risk to other ground services during the digging up of the roads – what happens if services are disrupted?
- Adverse effect to parking in the village and impact on local businesses.
- Possible disruption to planned works in Way Lane and Bannold Road.
- Concerns with climate change in light of no new gas boilers to be fitted to new homes from 2025.
- Use of gas from biodigester (can be variable due to waste used).
- Waterbeach often suffers congestion in the event of an accident on the A14 (as experienced last week). Should an accident take place during the gas works it would cause an impossible situation of gridlock.

\*\* Fulcrum who are delivering the infrastructure connection contacted the Parish Council to advise them of planned work, but apparently East Cambridgeshire District Council had consulted Waterbeach Parish Council and South Cambridgeshire County Council on the new Section 73 planning application (which will result in a new planning permission).

Cllr Anna Bradnam responded as a neutral participant to present a response to comments raised:

- Utilities companies have the right to installation and this does not have to be shown outside the redline on the application which is the boundary of the site.
- Work with StreetWorks (contractor) to ensure a logical order of works are carried out to ensure least disruption to village.

- The site is of very high spec. and totally air tight so no release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, which is used for the growth of plants in glasshouses. Shutters will be closed at night on the glasshouses so no light pollution in the area.
- Information on this project had been held back due to recent elections.
- Risk to current services is very valid point and surveys should be carried out prior to work starting to limit risk. The contractor would be responsible for all repairs to any breach of major services.

**Potential actions:**

- Challenge the current application which as a section 73 application will result in a new planning permission and not just an agreement to a variation of conditions.
- Ensure no disruption to intended works in Way Lane and Bannold Road
- Challenge the intended route and offer alternative suggestions
- Question use of natural gas and not alternative source in light of climate change and desire to phase out use of natural gas
- Register concerns with MP
- Involved the press to highlight the issue
- Arrange a presentation from StreetWorks to understand exactly any work schedule and ensure all roads are fully reinstated on completion and any ongoing issues (eg trench surface leading to potholes, drainage issues etc) addressed without delay.

2. [21/02009/FUL](#) Temporary construction haul road including a temporary vehicular access from the A10, construction of a culvert structure, boundary fencing, access gate, signage, wheel wash facilities, construction of engineered drainage works, drainage swale, filter drains, temporary connection to drainage pond, headwalls, soft landscaping, tree and woodland planting, habitat creation and ecological mitigation measures, earthworks, ground remodelling, area for construction use, and any necessary vegetation, tree and hedgerow removal and demolitions.

Waterbeach Barracks North Of The Cambridge Research Park Roundabout Waterbeach

Following discussion objections were voiced the following issues:

- The A10 is already a heavily congested road with a high risk of accidents
- Alternative haul road can be built off of the Research Park roundabout onto the barracks site with a link road off, on site, if required for contractor vehicles.
- Location of the proposed haul road opposite businesses and a petrol station, with vehicles turning out to the right towards Cambridge would increase the risks of accidents.
- If the application is to be approved then the new haul road should have no right-hand turn slip on the A10 – all traffic should enter and exit the site on a left-hand turn and the plans must be amended significantly to allow adequate slip roads to leave and join the A10. The two roundabouts can be used to facilitate the traffic flow up and down the A10.
- Request this planning application scdc should consider this planning application

The Parish Council will discuss these points at the next WPC Planning Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> of May and further comments from members of the public are welcome – these can be emailed to council [council@waterbeach.org.uk](mailto:council@waterbeach.org.uk)