



Waterbeach Neighbourhood Plan & Village Highways Meeting Notes

7p.m. 28 August 2018

Control Tower, Waterbeach Barracks

Attendees:

David Allatt – Transport Assessment Manager, Cambs County Council

Paul Bearpark - Transport Lead, Waterbeach NP steering committee

Ian Bracey - Waterbeach NP

Rebecca Britton - Communication, Communities and Partnerships, Urban & Civic

Simon Clewlow – Clewlow Consulting

Caroline Foster – Senior Development Manager, Urban & Civic

Ivan Gilzean – Waterbeach PC Highways Committee Chairman

Chris Goldsmith – Turnstone Estates

Kate Grant – Waterbeach PC

John Grant – Waterbeach resident

Rachel Hogger – Modicum Planning, consultant to NP steering group

Sophie Longbottom – Waterbeach NP steering committee

Brenda Johnson – Waterbeach PC

Tim Slater – 3d Planning Ltd, adviser to PC

Jonathan Taylor – Waterbeach NP steering committee

Jane Williams – Waterbeach PC & NP steering committee

Brian Williams – Waterbeach PC & NP steering committee

Jane Williamson – Waterbeach PC & NP steering committee

Michael Williamson – Waterbeach PC

Andrew Winter, Principal Planning Officer, SCDC

Background to meeting

Paul outlined that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has been considering issues with the village highways, issues for pedestrians and cyclists and also how the street scene and public realm could be improved. This requires a broader range of input from experts such as council officers and highways consultants. It also requires more input from residents. The NP will have a mid-way consultation which will ask various questions relating to this. The NP have already consulted on these issues but the mid-way consultation will probe these topics more deeply.

In addition, as the new town is developed it is expected that there will be significant funding to make improvements to the village. However, decisions need to be made about the type of improvements that should be made and residents of Waterbeach should be leading this.

The developers of the new town have offered to assist with the process since they have been undertaking considerable work to determine the impact of the new town on the village which has included some mitigation measures incorporated into the planning applications.

The Neighbourhood Plan will contain policies relating to land use. Highways schemes and projects can be linked to land use and can be included in the NP.

Meeting objectives

Paul outlined that the purpose of the meeting is two-fold:

1. To decide whether the NP is an appropriate mechanism for deciding and agreeing the types of improvements that should be made
2. To discuss the process and resources needed for developing scheme options

Meeting discussion

There then followed discussion about these objectives during which the following points were made:

- It can be difficult to make changes that lead to improvements. There are sometimes unexpected consequences or knock-on effects arising from a change to the highway.
- The village should have started this process some time ago
- Defining schemes that can go to consultation can be problematic because of the detail and considerable work needed
- When considering changes to highways it is necessary to consider the end-to-end journeys that are being made and the issues that arise along those journeys.
- Particular proposals for schemes can generate a lot of opposition from those with vested interests. The PC has experience of this.

There was some discussion about the quality and relevance of the data being used by highways consultants and officers. Particularly there was concern about the use of out of date census data. Although census data is used in some instances there is far more relevant and up to date data being produced as part of the new town planning.

Rachel Hogger outlined the work that the NP group has been doing to identify particular issues in the village. A map has been produced which identifies issues and areas for improvement.

During the discussion which followed it was suggested that the village residents need to determine the aspirations for the village and also prioritise the issues and areas for improvement that have been identified.

Becca Britton described an approach that had been taken at the Stukeley's which involved a wide range of stakeholders. She offered to provide the terms of reference for the group working on this.

To conclude the meeting Paul suggested that working group be formed to look at this further and asked those willing to support this to confirm by email.