

AGENDA ITEM No. 14

John Vickery

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 23 September 2014 16:30
To: [Redacted]
Subject: COALITION OF PARISH COUNCILS - UPDATE

Attn: Parish Clerks – Please forward this to your Chair because we urgently need volunteers for the traffic survey

Dear fellow parish councils,

Coalition of Parish Councils - Making our views on the Local Plan heard at the Examination in Public (EIP)

Coalition of Parish Councils

I am pleased to say that the **Coalition of Parish Councils** now comprises 14 parish councils. Nine of our members have contributed over £5,500 to the 'fighting fund', which we are using to pay for advice from a transport consultant.

We've come a long way since our first meeting in April!

The members of the Coalition of Parish Councils are: Arrington*, Bourn*, Caldecote*, Cambourne, Caxton*, Croxton, Elsworth*, Eltisley, Eversdens*, Hardwick*, Knapwell, Longstowe, Madingley* and Toft* parish councils.^[1] Parish councils who have contributed to the Fighting Fund are marked with an asterix (*).

Since some of our parish councils are from north of the A428, we suggest a slight change in the wording of our agreed statement. We have added an extra sentence to the end of the paragraph.

Statement of opposition to the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan

by the

Coalition of Parish Councils

The new settlements Bourn Airfield and West Cambourne are unsustainable and their inclusion in the Local Plan flies in the face of South Cambridgeshire District Council's own commitment to reduce car dependence. There are no significant plans for employment in our area and, based on the Cambourne experience, 70% of the residents of these new developments will travel to work by car. Consequently, these developments will place intolerable pressure on the already congested local road infrastructure as motorists - faced with traffic jams and hold ups - will use alternative routes through our villages. These proposed 'dormitory' settlements fail the test of sustainability. As the elected representatives of (list of participating villages) we are firmly opposed to their inclusion in the Local Plan and seek to have both removed. We are also firmly opposed to any future housing developments north or south of the A428 between Croxton and the M11.

If we do not receive any objections to the extra text by 31st October, we will assume it is agreed.

Our transport consultant is Karl von Weber. He is based in Wales and has extensive experience in making representation at EIPs and other planning inquiries.

Examination in Public (EIP)

The Examination in Public (EIP) of the Local Plan kicked off with a 'Pre-Hearing' at the Guildhall in Cambridge on 11th September. At this meeting, the Inspector (Ms Laura Graham) explained that the EIP is for both the Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans.

The examination will be divided into a number of sessions, which will take place between November 2014 and April 2015. The first session on strategic issues will take place from 4th to 19th November. The programme of hearings for this can be found at: www.scambs.gov.uk/local-plan-examination. The sessions on transport, Bourn Airfield and West Cambourne will take place in the New Year. That schedule has not yet been announced.

We have informed the Inspector about the formation of the Coalition of Parish Councils. We told her that the Coalition's views will be represented at the hearing by one of our parish councils members. The Coalition cannot speak, on its own, because it did not submit written representations in 2013.

Bourn Parish Council submitted written representations in October 2013 and asked to appear at the hearings on Bourn Airfield and West Cambourne. We have recently requested permission also to appear at the sessions on:

- overall spatial vision and general issues (5th-6th November);
- infrastructure /monitoring/viability (19th November); and
- transport strategy (in the New Year).

We have not heard whether we will be allowed to appear at these sessions. It's at the Inspector's discretion.

Could you please let me know if your parish council has asked to 'appear' at any of the hearings and, if so, at which ones? We can then coordinate accordingly.

All hearings are open to members of the public, but you can only speak if you have asked to do so, in advance, and the Inspector has agreed.

Transport analysis

We intend to submit to the Inspector supplementary 'statements' on transport, Bourn Airfield and West Cambourne. These will be based on the work we are undertaking, with our transport consultant, including:

- a traffic survey to estimate morning rush hour flows (0715-0915) through our villages and the length a time it takes to get through bottlenecks, including Madingly Hill (A1303), Barton (B1046/A603) and Caxton Gibbet (A428/A1198);
- an survey of current journey to work patterns from Cambourne (where people work, the proportion going by car, and the time it takes); and
- detailed analysis of the Cambridge and South Cambridge Transport Strategy and the plans of the Highways Agency which underlie the Local Plan.

Supplementary 'statements' can be up to 3,000 words long and must be submitted at least three weeks before the specific hearing. In view of this deadline, we aim to complete the work by December.

We have started work on the traffic survey – but we will need more help!

A small group of volunteers has already recorded traffic flows at 12 junctions along the A428 (new and old) and A1303 between Caxton Gibbet and the M11 at the bottom of Madingley Hill.

In October (7th -9th and 14th-16th) we will be recording flows:

- on the B1046/A603 from Longstowe/Arrington to the M11 at Barton, including flows down from the A428; and
- through other villages, north of the A428 (Elsworth, Knapwell and Madingley).

We will also be recording current journey times from Cambourne to key centres to employment, including the Biomedical Campus.

We need extra volunteers! It would be helpful if all members of the Coalition could nominate 1 or 2 people to undertake the survey on at least two days. **Please let me know who will be joining us from your parish council.**

Next meeting of the Coalition

It will be important to hold a meeting of the Coalition of Parish Councils before the key EIP hearings on transport, Bourn Airfield and West Cambourne. It will give us the opportunity to review the findings of the survey and discuss the key arguments we want to put to the Inspector.

The best time for such a meeting would be in early-mid December. **We would like to suggest either Wednesday 10th or Thursday 11th December at Bourn Village Hall. Could you please let me know as soon as possible if either of these dates conflicts with your Parish Council or other important meetings?** We suggest that each parish council sends one representative to the meeting.

I think that's all for now. Thanks, everyone, for your support. **Please respond to the four questions in bold, above, as soon as possible.**

Best Wishes

Steve Jones
Bourn Parish Council
Mobile: 078 8785 4940

^[1] Four councils declined to join: Barton, Comberton, Coton and Dry Drayton.