

South West Cambridge Action Group (SWCAG)

Frequently Asked Questions – Issue 3 – 26/01/2021

Q. Do any of the councillors know who owns what land locally? Is a map of landowners available? Can this be shared?

A. We have started to make Land Registry enquiries so that when a Landowner makes an option agreement, we will have some indication.

Q: Are you sure about CCC not selling land for development? They have put up quite a bit for consideration in the Call for Sites in the Local Plan.

A. Yes, there are submissions in the Call for Sites which as local councillors we monitor.
<https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/emerging-plans-and-guidance/greater-cambridge-local-plan/document-library/site-submissions/>

Q. I would suggest doing more on social media channels to keep local people informed in addition to those ideas.

A. The SWCAG Facebook page in the main source currently but we do plan other SM channels.

Q. What exactly is Homes England and what powers does it have?

A. Homes England is a Government backed agency which theoretically stands on its own but takes guidance from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG).

Q. Any plans for a petition (or even a local poll if that's possible?) to gauge local opinions on the topic?

A. Certainly an option for us.

Q. Was there a report that Thakeham are a donor to the Tory Party?

A. *Thakeham have donated £451k over a period of 2 years.*
<http://search.electoralcommission.org.uk/English/Search/Donations?currentPage=1&rows=10&query=thakeham&sort=AcceptedDate&order=desc&tab=1&et=pp&et=ppm&et=tp&et=perpar&et=rd&isIrishSourceYes=true&isIrishSourceNo=true&prePoll=false&postPoll=true®ister=gb®ister=ni®ister=none&optCols=Register&optCols=CampaigningName&optCols=AccountingUnitsAsCentralParty&optCols=IsSponsorship&optCols=IsIrishSource&optCols=RegulatedDoneeType&optCols=CompanyRegistrationNumber&optCols=Postcode&optCols=NatureOfDonation&optCols=PurposeOfVisit&optCols=DonationAction&optCols=ReportedDate&optCols=IsReportedPrePoll&optCols=ReportingPeriodName&optCols=IsBequest&optCols=IsAggregation>

Q. What line are you taking with Anthony Browne MP?

A. We are fully prepared to work with Anthony Browne.

Q. What is South Cambs view as the planning authority?

A. South Cambs have asked the developer to submit into the Local Plan. The Plan has to be considered objectively as any other development. SCDC cannot form a view of any proposal ahead of a submission; this would invite legal challenge. All submissions must be 'considered' according to statutory processes and the idea is that Thakeham's proposal should be subject to the same rules as apply to everyone else.

Q. Other developers may well be unhappy with the "competition" from Thakeham - is there a plan to contact them and sound out their positions?

A. No plan to directly engage with developers, however we do expect them to come forward with strong proposals of their own.

Q. What plans for Crowd Funding?

A. Very much an option in next steps. We need to determine possible costs of a campaign.

Q. Will we have a group of potential pro bono expertise that we have access to.

A. That is part of the plan. We've been contacted by a number of people with needed expertise in planning, law and development who are prepared to offer their services.

Q. Could we have a listing of these potential "Third Ways" (elite central government channels) in written form? Sort of like the FAQ. Would help to understand what the pathways/options are and engage with how to counter that. Would also help educate other residents as well.

A. Possible "Third Way" channels are:

1. National Infrastructure Project
2. Possible Development Corporation

Here is the extract from the Planning White paper & March 2020 budget:

"Backing the Oxford-Cambridge Arc, including a new spatial framework and up to 4 new development corporations – the Arc has the potential to be a world leading green growth corridor, with high-productivity jobs and environmentally friendly developments. The Spatial Framework will give certainty to businesses and developers about where new housing and employment will be delivered until 2050 and support planning for the right infrastructure to meet social, environmental and economic needs. The government is also going to examine and develop the case for up to 4 new Development Corporations in the Ox-Cam Arc, subject to necessary public consultation, in or around Bedford, St Neots/Sandy, Cambourne and

Cambridge, which includes plans to explore the case for a New Town at Cambridge, to accelerate new housing and infrastructure development.

4 Planning Act – a Government white paper is under consideration which would take powers away from District & Parish.

Q. Bearing in mind that the Local Plan is to be a joint plan with the City Council, would it be useful at some stage to have a discussion with the City to enlist their support?

A. Yes, we will engage with City reps. However, the Local Plan is a joint plan so there can be no 'pre-determination'.

Q. Can we have a list of talking points for why people should care and oppose this proposal? Also, the question about plans to contact other competing developers and their views/alternatives?

A. Yes this will be prepared.

South West Cambridge Action Group Jan 25th 2021