

CB23 Community Forum Blog

This week's community forum was the first of a new series of quarterly forums aimed at local people in the following parishes (Bourn, Caldecote, Cambourne, Caxton, Elsworth, Eltisley, Harwick, Knapwell and Papworth) that fall within CB23 postcode re local development plans in the Cambourne area and surrounding parishes. Residents, developers, planners, councillors and officers from the County and District Councils attended the community drop-in and evening meeting. Cllr Tim Wotherspoon, portfolio holder for strategic planning and infrastructure at South Cambs District Council chaired a jam packed agenda.

The meeting started by establishing the new forum's name with the catchy **CB23** being the popular choice rather than the focusing on development along the A428 corridor. Terms of reference were also agreed.

Local Plan Update

SCDC Planning officers talked through the local plan update with valuable input from colleagues at County. Some discussion was had around possible future development at Bourn airfield and it was suggested that it be a future agenda item.

The recent Parish boundary changes in Caxton, Elsworth and Cambourne were mentioned regarding the boundary around Cambourne West.

Cambourne West

The planning officer provided an update on the Cambourne West planning application in particular the greater cycle and pedestrian links to Cambourne and surrounding villages. There is a shared aim of delivering an additional access to Cambourne West through the business park, which will come forward as part of the plans for new homes on the business park

An upgrade of Sheepfold Lane to serve Cambourne West will result in measures that may affect the current operation of the BMW and Mini dealerships. In addition to highways works and other money for health, education etc. the development will also provide money towards indoor recreation that the parish council is proposing to use towards a new swimming pool.

Cambourne Bus Link

The Cambourne bus link will knock significant travel time off the current journey into Cambridge. The two way, bus only road will also allow emergency vehicle access and will have a pedestrian and cycle route. The bus only road will be controlled by number plate recognition cameras and could also include physical measures to stop access by general motor traffic. The improved bus link should help to future proof the bus service making it even more commercially attractive to service providers and faster for passengers from Cambourne and the surrounding villages.

Pub & Hotel Development

The Pub and Hotel developers popped along to the forum to share their designs and chat about what they will be offering in Cambourne. The proposed pub will be built by McMullens, a family owned brewery, owners of Bar Baroosh in Market Passage and others around the country. They will

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be developing a modern pub yet with classic design elements of oak and slate on the site overlooking Lake Lambert. Fresh food, a full service restaurant and their own ales from their brewery in Hertford will be on offer. ICA are the architects behind the hotel development which will compliment the pub in terms of offering and will be proposed as part of the same planning application. It will have 130 rooms and will have less of the services than those of the adjacent Belfry. The brand of the hotel is still under review by the hotelier. Local businesses will be encouraged to build relationships with the hotel once it opens and both the pub and hotel are expecting to recruit locally. A planning application for the pub and hotel is expected towards the end of the year.

Cambourne Youth Project

Cambourne Parish Council has proposals for a permanent Youth Building on Back Lane. They showed off the plans at the forum including some beautiful grounds with barbecue and seating areas and valuable facilities topped off with some colourful cladding and a spectacular glazed feature as a fun attractive finish. The drawings include plenty of parking at the rear of the building for support workers and carers, which could also reduce pressure on the sports centre car park. The drawings are currently in for pre-application comments with the District Council. The existing youth building will remain in use until the replacement is complete. An application for the new building is expected in early 2018.

Cambourne High Street

There is a plan to develop the vacant sites on the High St, the intention is for a mix of retail units and potentially 120 new homes on the land to the north and south of the High Street. This will require widening of the street and relocating services which is why the Council has put in an infrastructure bid to unlock the development. In 2018 this infrastructure bid will be decided and will in turn influence the direction of the high street development plans. More details are expected of the proposals in the new year.

An email will be circulated amongst all the relevant parishes of CB23 one month prior to the next proposed meeting calling for agenda items. Contact regarding any aspect of the forum can be made via email cb23.community@scambbs.gov.uk