



GREATER CAMBRIDGE
SHARED PLANNING

Disability Consultative Panel

Tuesday, 3 October 2023

14:00 – 15:40

Venue

**Swansley A&B, Ground floor, South Cambridgeshire Hall,
South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambourne
and via Microsoft 'Teams'**

Notes

Attendees

Mark Taylor	Greater Cambridge Shared Planning (Chair)
Sue Simms	Former Housing Officer
Jean White	Retired City Council employee
Katie Roberts	Greater Cambridge Shared Planning (Notes)
Katie Christodoulides	Principal Planner, Greater Cambridge Shared Planning (for presentation 1)

Apologies

Jane Renfrew, David Baxter, John Taylor, Rosalind Bird, Betty Watts

Presentation 1: Cambridge Discovery Campus (CDC), Hauxton

Presenters

Chris Jones, BCR Infinity Architects
Rob Sadler, Foundation Capital Ventures (FCV)
Amy Robinson, Bidwells

The presenters delivered a comprehensive presentation, describing the proposals to create a new science park, to be achieved by the demolition of existing structures and redevelopment on a proposed site located outside of the Hauxton Village Development Framework and in the open countryside and Cambridge Green Belt, to the south of the new South West Travel Hub.

They expanded on the Vision, sustainability strategy, the site context and former use, improving connectivity and Design principles (encompassing accessible car parking locations, central landscape spine, spaces between buildings, the service road and lighting). It was noted that restricting vehicular movement early in the scheme will allow the heart of the development to be traffic free and that a network of level footpaths and cycle paths is envisaged. It was explained that the buildings, which may have multiple tenants, are located to create a community and that a key element of the CDC vision is to deliver initiatives that support the local community. Following the Outline consent the team will move into the detailed stage of the project and would like to engage with the Disability Panel again to seek their advice.

Panel comments and queries

- SS and JW provided positive feedback on the scheme, commenting favourably on its connection with the local villages and the provision for Blue Badge holders to drive up to the building. SS mentioned that she would appreciate the inclusion of a changing places toilet in the amenities.
- Prompted by a comment by the Chair, a discussion took place about the features of the proposal as a 'beautiful and exciting building'
- In response to queries by the Chair, it was agreed that the nearest bus stop is approximately 200m away (and a shuttle bus is proposed), there will be about 1,000 employees at the facility and there will be parking for oversized cycles. The Chair mentioned that Sheffield hoops will need to be set out appropriately.
- In terms of the pathway surfaces, the Chair suggested a preference for bonded pea shot gravel, owing to its resilience, adding that asphalt is also suitable for wheelchairs. The presenters suggested that, assuming the scheme is approved, they would benefit from workshops with the Disability Panel and others to seek advice on the finer details, such as material selection.
- The Chair noted that the proposed 3 metre shared path can be quite difficult for disabled people, who would prefer a segregated path. If the path is segregated it would need to be wider to allow cyclists to pass each other.
- The Chair commented favourably on the low level lighting, which visually impaired people will be able to follow easily at night. He suggested significant light above the doorways and lighting close to the Blue Badge spaces to promote confidence when employees are leaving the work facilities in the dark.
- In terms of the sports facilities, the Chair mentioned that accessible changing rooms are not absolutely necessary and that there are some designs for sports changing rooms that meet the changing place requirements, which he offered to provide.
- The Chair thanked the team for their presentation.