

SCDC CIVIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE 20 JUNE 2013

Item 7 Trumpington Meadows Community Governance review

Comments on Officer's Report by Haslingfield Parish Council

Haslingfield Parish Council [HPC] welcomes the recommendation that a CGR should be undertaken to consider the future governance arrangements for the new community at Trumpington Meadows and appreciates the speedy response to their application.

However, they are disappointed at the proposals for triggering both the informal and formal stages of consultation. It seems clear from CGRs at other locations that the total period is unlikely to be less than two years which would take us to May 2015 at the earliest.

In its original application, HPC argued that it would be in the best interests of new residents if a new Parish could be operational as soon as possible after they move in. This would allow them the earliest possible input to governing their own affairs and encourage better community cohesion.

HPC does not understand the suggestion that informal consultation should not start until a timetable is submitted by the developers. The initial stage is surely concerned with matters of principle which should be dealt with now before the formal stage commences.

Similarly, waiting until 100 properties are occupied before starting a one year formal consultation could mean that 200 properties (30% of the total) could be occupied before residents had operational input to a new elected parish council. Experience from Cambourne & Orchard Park shows this to be undesirable.

HPC would like to work with the officers and developer to create a timeline which will give everyone the opportunity to forward plan their financial & resource requirements.