



By Online Planning Register

Cambridge Past, Present & Future  
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19/4/2023

Dear Michael

**Response to 23/01134/FUL: redevelopment of Melbourn Science Park**

Cambridge Past, Present & Future is Cambridge's largest civic society. We are a charity run by local people who are passionate about where they live. We operate in the greater Cambridge area and working with our members, supporters and volunteers we:

- Are dedicated to protecting and enhancing the green setting of Cambridge for people and nature.
- Care about Cambridge and are an independent voice for quality of life in the strategic planning of Greater Cambridge.
- Are working to protect, celebrate and improve the important built heritage of the Cambridge area.
- Own and care for green spaces and historic buildings in and around the city for people and nature, including Wandlebury Country Park, Coton Countryside Reserve, Cambridge Leper Chapel & Barnwell Meadows, Bourn Windmill and Hinxtton Watermill.

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Cambridge Past Present & Future are concerned about the impact of the height and massing of the proposed buildings on the landscape edge and entrance to the village and on the heritage assets of the Conservation Area and Listed Buildings.

Policy E/12 allows for new and expanded employment development in villages provided the scale of development is in keeping with the character and scale of the location.

Policy NH/2 requires development to respect and enhance the character and distinctiveness of the local landscape.

The development will dramatically alter the approach into the village from the north. Currently the science park is barely visible. The proposed Mobility Hub and Block E are an additional 10m higher than the current buildings and will dominate the scene and overshadow the adjoining countryside. It will change the character of the village gateway from rural to something we are now seeing on the edge of Cambridge City. The visual bulk of the building is broken up by the use of a shading frame. However, we question whether this will successfully visually break up the building when viewed from some distance.

We consider that the scale and bulk of the buildings on the north-eastern boundary are contrary to policies E/12 and NH/2.

Policy NH/14 requires development to sustain and enhance the significance of heritage assets.

We appreciate how the master planning has minimised the impact on the listed buildings and conservation to the south-west of the site.

The Heritage Assessment (paragraph 8.18) accepts that the development will impact the sense of openness and the setting of the listed buildings and village character where the site abuts Moat Lane. It is very

important therefore that the buildings are low in scale and there is appropriate landscaping to soften the development and ensure the parking area does not dominate the street scene.

I trust that you will take our comments into consideration.

Yours sincerely

**Sarah Nicholas**

Principal Planning Officer