

Wrenbridge  
c/o Cavendish Consulting

By email to:

[feedback@consultation-online.co.uk](mailto:feedback@consultation-online.co.uk)

24/07/2024

Dear James

### **Response to Consultation on redevelopment of northern end of Mercers Row**

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 wish to ensure that this development does not have a negative impact on the Leper Chapel and Barnwell Meadows which we own and care for, and that the character of Stourbridge Common is protected.

Masterplan: The site is wrapped around by the Riverside and Stourbridge Common Conservation Area. The Conservation Area Appraisal describes the landscape setting as having a backcloth of trees surrounding the open commons to the south, softening and at times hiding the built-up area beyond. It identifies a view eastward as being an important positive view. The trees bordering Mercers Row are in this sight line, shielding the industrial buildings from view. We therefore consider that the tree belt around the site should be maintained and strengthened. We therefore support your plans to have new tree and greenery planting. Landscape plans need to ensure sufficient space for trees to grow to their full potential.

The Leper Chapel is a Grade I listed building and Barnwell Junction Station Platform Building is a locally listed building. We await to see the visualisations before we can comment on the impact of the development on the Chapel and its setting.

Design and Materiality: We support your parameter of buildings heights of 10m-14m and would not support buildings which breach the tree line.

Sustainability: We support your sustainability ambitions.

Public Realm: We support the aim to achieve at least 10% biodiversity net gain but encourage you to try and achieve at least 20% BNG to meet Natural Cambridgeshire's target of doubling land for nature.

Access and Transport: How people access the site by foot and cycle needs to be carefully considered in view of the traffic restrictions along Mercers Row, Garlic Row and Swanns Road. We ask that you carefully consider how people will access the site from the north such as from Cambridge North Station. The implications of



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creating an access point on the north eastern boundary of the site, is that people will cut across the common which may result in a worn path. The creation of an appropriately surfaced path should therefore be considered and discussed with the City Council.

I trust that you will take our comments into consideration.

Yours sincerely

*Sarah Nicholas*

Principal Planning Officer