

Darwin Green 2/3 Project Team

By email to:

feedback@darwingreenconsultation.co.uk

14/03/2022

Dear Project Team

Response to Darwin Green 2/3 Consultation

Cambridge Past, Present & Future (CPPF) 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:

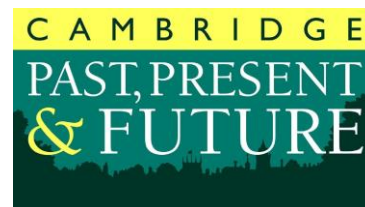
- Are dedicated to protecting and enhancing the green setting of Cambridge for people and nature.
- Care about Cambridge and are an independent voice for quality of life in the strategic planning of Greater Cambridge.
- Are working to protect, celebrate and improve the important built heritage of the 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 Hinxton Watermill.

Cambridge Past, Present & Future has attended your recent consultation event and we wish to make the following comments.

1. We are particularly disappointed to see that the country park is located next to the A14. The impact of road noise will significantly diminish it as a public amenity and reduce the public health benefits. As an organisation that runs country parks in the Cambridge area, we know that people comment negatively about road noise. People want quiet places in nature to restore themselves and to escape from the pressures of urban living – it is difficult to do that next to a motorway. Attracting nature next to motorways is also likely to lead to wildlife being killed on the road.

A much better plan, from a park users perspective, would be to provide trees and commercial development adjacent to the road to act as a noise and pollution barrier to both the parkland and residential areas. The parkland can be located between the commercial development and the residential, providing an enjoyable space for both employees and residents.

2. Drainage. There is no greywater recycling proposed, just surface water drainage and attenuation ponds. We have been interested to learn about [Thames Water's scheme](#) offering a discount on new connection charges to developers who install water efficient devices, introduce rainwater harvesting or greywater recycling and achieve water neutrality. We would encourage you to discuss similar incentives with Cambridge Water.
3. Concern is expressed at the location of 4-storey housing along the main routes. This creates an unattractive canyon effect.
4. The unfolding of the biodiversity crisis since outline permission was granted means that the layout should be revisited to ensure permeability and habitat for wildlife. This should include use of hedging between houses rather than fences to allow wildlife to wander.



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5. The floodlighting of sports fields needs to be carefully designed and managed to minimise the impact on biodiversity and residents.

I trust that you will take our comments into consideration.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Nicholas
Principal Planning Officer