Cambridge City Council

By Online Survey

18/11/2026

Cambridge Past, Present & Future
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Survey Response to Shaping North Cambridge – Arbury Court consultation November 2026

Survey Question / Field	**Response**
What best describes your connection to Arbury Court?	Other (tell us more)
Type your answer	Cambridge Past, Present and Future is the Civic Society for Cambridge
What do you think about our proposed themes? Do you have any other suggestions?	Heritage and green spaces
Design Principles	
Are there any memories, traditions or features of Arbury Court that should influence the new design?	*No response*
To what extent do you support the following elements	
A mixed and balanced community, with approximately 50% council housing, and the rest market sale or rent	Support
The sustainability objectives of low energy housing and increased biodiversity	Strong support
Improved commercial premises for shops and services	Support
Improved civic space	Strong support
Improved park	Strong support
New library location	Not sure
Improved pedestrian and cycle routes	Support
If you don't support a mixed and balanced community, with approximately 50% council housing and the rest market sale or rent, please explain why.	*No response*
A new bus stop closer to Arbury Court	Support
Deliveries via Arbury Road	Not sure
Parking access via Arbury Road	Not sure
Limited short term parking spaces on Arbury Road	Not sure
Additional parking spaces on Alex Wood Road	Not sure
A residents' parking scheme for the surrounding residential streets	Not sure
Our proposals **To what extent do you support each of the proposals?** **The design proposals aim to deliver the scheme benefits through the features identified in the table.**	
Retaining the existing playground in its current location	Support

Survey Question / Field	Response
Rotation of the park/open space to connect with the civic space	Support
Civic space layout	Support
Are there any areas regarding building height and layout that you think work well and would like to give feedback on?	We welcome that parking is either covered under the buildings or in landscaped courtyards.
Our approach Are there any areas of concern regarding building height and layout that you'd like to raise?	The Service Yard and Parking Yard must be carefully designed, so as to prevent antisocial behavioral areas. The supermarket elevation must be designed as an active frontage with an attractive and welcoming appearance.
New uses and spaces **Do you support the location of the following uses within the design?**	
Library	Not sure
Shops	Not sure
Supermarket	Not sure
Charity building	Not sure
Homes	Not sure
Car parking	Not sure
What is important to have in the civic space?	
Flexible markets/performance or cinema space	Not sure
Christmas lights switch on	Not sure
Play space	Support
Cafe style seating outside shops	Not sure
Trees and planting	Strong support
Community gardens	Not sure
Cycle and buggy parking	Support
Fixed public seating with accessibility design	Support
What is important to have in the park?	
Colourful furniture and lighting	Not sure
Mix-use open green space – e.g. for pop-up cinema, ball games, picnics	Strong support
Outdoor seating - e.g. for children's shows or outdoor cinema	Not sure
Planting, trees and natural materials	Strong support
Play zone – existing and new equipment	Strong support
Trim Trail – outdoor gym	Not sure
Community gardens	Not sure
Cycle and buggy parking	Support
'Roman Road' - a perimeter path	Support
Unique sculptures	Support
Do you support deliveries to shops and parking access coming via Mansel Way and Alex Wood Road?	Not sure
How do you feel about the proposed parking provision at Arbury Court? –	
Shopping parking	Support
Residential parking	Support

Survey Question / Field	Response
Electrical vehicle charging	Not sure
Car club	Not sure
Please explain your answer to the question above.	We welcome that residential parking is either covered under the buildings or in landscaped courtyards.
General Feedback **Do you support these proposals for Arbury Court?**	Support

Please explain your answer to the question above.

Cambridge Past, Present and Future maintains its support for the ambition and core objectives of the proposed development scheme. The opportunity to deliver much-needed additional housing, provide improved commercial premises, and execute a general upgrade in community spaces is supported. We welcome the commitment to improving the local environment and amenity.

We made a number of comments in response to the December 2025 consultation and are please to note that some of our concerns have been met.

We are pleased to see that the previously proposed pocket parks along Arbury Road are no longer part of the scheme. It is unclear from the consultation documents whether the amount of useable open space is of an equivalent or greater quantity or an equal or better quality than currently. The final planning application must be in accordance with Policy 67 of the Local Plan.

We are pleased to see that the park will benefit from natural surveillance from the residential development, library and charities building. However, I wish to reiterate the following comments to ensure the park's resilience and utility.

- Materials and Resilience: To mitigate the potential for overuse and wear in a relatively small space surrounded by many potential users, the design should avoid an excessive reliance on grassed areas. Consideration should be given to incorporating more hard-paved areas and exploring interesting changes of level.

- Sustainable Drainage: The design must include the integration of dual-purpose, year-round usable Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) areas to manage surface water effectively while adding aesthetic and ecological value.

- Play Provision: We recommend the inclusion of two distinct play spaces: one specifically designed for younger children and another provision tailored for the needs of older children and teenagers. We note that 'space for teenagers to hang out' is shown as a planned change, however it is not clear how and where this is being delivered.

- Ecology and Shade: The proposals for the new park must include the planting of a large species, feature tree to provide essential shade and shelter, and to offer a tangible benefit to the local ecology.

- Pedestrian and Cycle Safety: Cycle and pedestrian routes crisscrossing the park must be designed with sufficient width to allow for clear segregation between users, prioritising safety and accessibility.

Health impact survey
How important are the following features in making the regenerated Arbury Court area a healthy and enjoyable place to live?

Good-quality green spaces, trees and planting	Strong support
Safe and attractive walking and cycling routes	Strong support

Survey Question / Field	Response
Places for children and young people to play	Strong support
Safe, welcoming and well-lit public spaces	Strong support
Accessible and inclusive streets and public spaces	Strong support
Places to meet, socialise and take part in community activities	Strong support
Access to affordable, healthy food	Support
Homes that support residents' health and wellbeing	Strong support
Measures to reduce traffic, noise and air pollution	Strong support
What health, care or community facilities and services do you think should be prioritised as part of, or alongside, the regeneration of Arbury Court?	This is up to local residents
If you could introduce one idea to help make Arbury Court a healthier, happier and more connected community, what would it be?	high-quality green spaces