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RE: Foxton Neighbourhood Plan (Regulation 16 consultation)

Thank you for the opportunity to review and formally comment on the submission version of the Foxton Neighbourhood Plan.

The Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) welcomes Foxton Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan (NP), which is a comprehensive and well thought through document. However, this consultation response will focus on Sections 9 (Transport) and 10 (Foxton Travel Hub) of the NP.

For background, the GCP is in the process of working up proposals for a new Travel Hub (Park & Rail Scheme) on the outskirts of Foxton village. The Travel Hub will be located in one of two potential locations close to the railway station. A GCP board decision on the preferred location for the Travel Hub is expected to be made on 25 June 2020. Whichever option is chosen, the GCP will ensure there are suitable pedestrian and cycle access improvements to the railway station for commuters and local residents. The specific proposals to facilitate highway safety measures will be discussed and agreed with the Highway Authority.

The main objectives of the Travel Hub are to intercept and reduce traffic along the A10 corridor heading into Cambridge, encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport such as rail services available at Foxton station, and improve connectivity and accessibility locally, but also throughout Greater Cambridge.

These objectives would align with Objectives 10i and 10ii of the NP which seek to reduce the impact of traffic in the parish, improve safety for all and provides improved facilities to access high quality public transport services.

The scheme also intends to reduce the number of commuters parking in the village to use Foxton station.

Whilst detailed plans for the Travel Hub and associated infrastructure improvements are yet to be finalised, the proposals would in principle align with Policy FOX/17 (Alleviating



Congestion and Improving Traffic Flows). Policy FOX/17 states development proposals will be supported where they would alleviate existing congestion, improve pedestrian safety, provide parking for village facilities and other similar improvement proposals and improve traffic flows through the village. The GCP therefore supports the aspirations of this policy.

The GCP is also, as part of the Melbourn Greenway, looking at implementing a reduced speed limit on the A10 close to the level crossing, which would make it easier and more attractive to cross. The proposed Travel Hub access might also provide a gateway feature, and visual cue regarding the change in character to the road, to further support a reduced speed limit here. The proposed improvements from the Greenway would be incorporated into the preferred Travel Hub option to ensure a coordinated strategy is provided. Therefore, the GCP supports the intention of Policy FOX/18 which aims to ensure any future development provides adequate pedestrian and cycle connections. The policy states proposals which seek to increase access points onto existing roads, or increase traffic generation, will need to demonstrate that they will not have a harmful effect on congestion and road safety, nor exacerbate on-street parking constraints within the village.

The GCP is of the view that whilst the Travel Hub proposals would create a new entrance onto existing roads, it would seek to reduce traffic travelling along the A10 into Cambridge and provide a dedicated car park to alleviate on-street parking in the village. Whilst the new junction will introduce a new conflict point, the GCP is liaising with the County Highway Safety team and appropriate mitigation measures will be made in accordance with their guidance. The Travel Hub proposals would also improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity across the A10 to access the railway station, which would facilitate pedestrian access into the village from the west. The GCP is therefore supportive of this policy.

Section 10 of the NP focuses on the Foxton Travel Hub which the GCP has worked closely with the Parish Council and local residents on in terms of engaging with them on proposals for the Travel Hub options and understanding their main concerns. The GCP will continue to work and engage with the Parish Council, local residents and other key stakeholders on the Travel Hub project.

However, the last sentence in paragraph 10.11 of the NP is considered to be a misleading statement. The Cambridge South station proposal is not a GCP project. It is a project that Network Rail will be bringing forward subject to receiving the appropriate funding and consents. Therefore, for clarity, the GCP requests that this paragraph be amended to make it clear that Cambridge South station is not a GCP project.





Whichever Travel Hub option is chosen as the preferred site, the GCP will facilitate improvements to pedestrian and cycling access and connectivity to the railway station and village to the benefit of the local community. Various options proposals for such improvements are being considered and will be worked up in consultation with the local community and relevant user groups.

One of the main objectives of the Travel Hub proposal is to reduce congestion along the A10 corridor by providing an alternative travel option into Cambridge that links to other public transport services.

In terms of impact on residential amenity and the local environment, these will be appropriately considered in the site selection process. The GCP is already looking at ways to mitigate the potential impacts of the Travel Hubs on local residents and local environment as these are important factors for consideration. The GCP will also work with other project providers such as Network Rail, Local Planning Authorities, the Mayor of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and landowners to ensure the pipeline of programmed projects (Cambridge South station, Foxton Level Crossing bypass, East-West Rail etc..) do not undermine the character of the village.

The GCP is therefore supportive of the intention of the policy but feels the wording of policy FOX/19 (Foxton Travel Hub) should be revised to be more prescriptive of the types of benefits and location. This would help to manage expectations and avoid confusion as the Travel Hub site would not be able to bring forward improvements outside the site area.

Overall, the GCP welcomes and is supportive of the Foxton NP, and is committed to working with the Parish Council to progress the Travel Hub project in a way that benefits the local community and local environment.

Yours faithfully,



**Associate Director
Strutt & Parker**

On behalf of the Greater Cambridge Partnership

