

My ref: Thriplow and Heathfield Neighbourhood Plan

Your ref:

Date: 27 September 2024

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Dear Sirs

Thriplow and Heathfield Neighbourhood Plan Consultation

I refer to the consultation on the Thriplow and Heathfield Neighbourhood Plan and thank the Parish Councils for affording the County Council the opportunity to comment.

Please find attached to this letter comments that I have received from several service areas across the County Council. I trust that this will be of assistance to the Parish Councils as it progresses the Neighbourhood Plan.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Colum Fitzsimons
Development and Policy Manager
Planning, Growth and Environment

Thriplow and Heathfield Neighbourhood Plan – Submission Plan May 2024: Response by Cambridgeshire County Council

Response By	Policy	Response/Comment
Transport Strategy Team	Issue 3: Transport and Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The County Council is undertaking a multi-modal transport study of the Royston to Granta Park area. The objectives of the study have a strong focus on the environment with improvements to active travel, public transport and safety. Measures to reduce carbon emissions from transport would also be a key part of the development and detail of schemes and measures in the next stage of work. Recommendations on further work to develop more detailed proposals are due to be reported to committee in the autumn.
Active Travel Team	<p>Theme 2: Living village and sustainable development</p> <p>Objective 10: A safer less congested parish.</p> <p>Objective 11: The quality and quantity of our rural footpath network and interconnectivity with neighbouring settlements will be improved.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access, via non-motorised (active travel) routes, to the surrounding countryside and neighbouring settlements will be improved, bringing with it, social, mental and physical health benefits. We support the vision that promotes active travel. We support two themes in Objective 10 and 11. The plan highlights existing active travel routes and aims to enhance and expand them.
Active Travel Team	<p>Policy THP 10 – Grain store site allocation</p> <p>Part 3) Connectivity and permeability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there enough space for pedestrian and cycling routes along Lodge Road and Fowlmere Road?
Active Travel Team	Paragraph 6.12.6, page 90	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have options been considered for creating a school street to stop vehicle access to the front of school at drop off and pick up, making the road a safer place to walk, wheel and cycle. Off road parking could be negotiated in the pub and village hall car parks. Additional options could be creating a walking or cycling bus from Heathfield to reduce drop offs in cars.

Response By	Policy	Response/Comment
Active Travel Team	Policy THP 13 - Protecting and improving our rural routes for nonmotorized users and creating sustainable connections to neighbouring settlements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The policies in the draft Thriplow and Heathfield Neighbourhood Plan should align with the Cambridgeshire’s Active Travel Strategy and the Cambridgeshire’s Active Travel Toolkit for New Developments
Active Travel Team	Paragraphs 4.6.13 and 4.6.14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These issues (speeding and cut-through) are possibly related and a potential solution to both would be to introduce modal filters on the three main routes in and out of Thriplow to reduce the incentive to use the village as a short-cut. This is mentioned by a respondent to one of the surveys but does not appear to have been considered in the neighbourhood Plan.
Active Travel Team	Paragraph 4.6.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have either solar studs or motion-activated lighting been considered? The former, while not improving feeling of security, do indicate path edges. The latter could also be solar powered and potentially be configured to light up ahead of a cyclist or pedestrian.
Climate Change and Energy Services	General Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It would be useful to identify the main sources of carbon emissions in the Parish and work specifically to address these. Impact Community carbon calculator (impact-tool.org.uk) is a good tool to get this information. The document includes all the following phrases: “carbon neutral”, “zero carbon”, and “net zero carbon”. Each of these terms have slightly different meanings when it comes to the target outcome for reducing carbon emissions. It would be advisable for the Parish to review these definitions and decide which one is most appropriate for the neighbourhood plan. It is good to see community energy projects have been identified as an opportunity for the Parish.
Climate Change and Energy Services	Theme 2, Objective 8: All development to use sustainable building materials and consider energy efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is good to see the Parish have accounted for life cycle assessments of all activities and materials.

Response By	Policy	Response/Comment
Climate Change and Energy Services	<p>Policy THP 10 – Grain store site allocation</p> <p>Part 6) Sustainable design and construction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This policy follows good guidance using the net zero carbon toolkit’s energy hierarchy; however, maximising energy efficiency has not been included (although it is mentioned elsewhere in the document). The Parish could reword point ii) to include “<u>incorporation of energy efficiency measures such as insulation and LED lighting</u>, and low carbon heating solutions...” • Point ii) could also make specific reference to low carbon heat sources such as heat pumps as an alternative to gas and oil heating. • It is good to see support for renewable energy generation. This point could be strengthened further by the addition of specific mention of electric vehicle charge points. This could include supporting any applications for installation of such measures on existing buildings (in cases where planning permission is required) and requiring installation of such measures for construction of any new buildings.
Public Health	General Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having reviewed the Thriplow and Heathfield Neighbourhood Plan we support the plan’s response to the identified key issues: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Separate communities 2. Access to amenities 3. Transport and connectivity 4. Natural environment 5. Village character 6. Housing needs 7. Biodiversity • The current severance between the two communities presents challenges to their wellbeing if the settlements are not served with suitable interconnectivity, local assets and facilities however the plan addresses these concerns and possible future approaches. • Public Health welcome the Community Initiatives as positive aspirations to improve the health and wellbeing of Thriplow and Heathfield.