
HARSTON PARISH COUNCIL

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7th February 2025

Re: Neighbourhood Plan response

We are writing to provide feedback on the Great Shelford & Stapleford Neighbourhood Plan (NP) and to highlight key strategic considerations that we believe should be addressed within the Plan.

East-West Rail

East-West Rail and the CSET busway are both identified as strategic planning issues beyond the scope of the GS&S Neighbourhood Plan. While the Plan clearly states the parishes' position on CSET, there is no equivalent stance regarding East-West Rail. To ensure consistency in addressing significant transport infrastructure projects impacting the area, we suggest that the GS&S NP explicitly outlines its position on East-West Rail.

Primary Healthcare Provision

The GS&S NP acknowledges the aging demographic within the Plan area and notes that, while current primary healthcare provision is adequate, there is a potential capacity risk in the future. This risk applies to both general practice healthcare and NHS dentistry. Given the increasing number of care homes being developed in the area, we recommend that the GS&S NP includes a policy proposal to address this anticipated imbalance in healthcare provision.

Character of the Plan Area (Employment)

The GS&S NP highlights that many residents work primarily in the Greater Cambridge area or the Cambridge Biomedical Campus, rather than within the Plan area itself. Additionally, it notes that those employed locally often do not reside within the area. We suggest that the GS&S NP clearly states its position on employment growth within the Plan area, as the current assumption appears to be that employment opportunities will largely develop outside of it.

Congestion and Traffic Management (East-West Ring Road)

The GS&S NP recognises the forecasted increase in road traffic congestion and includes a policy proposal for a ring road to manage East-West traffic. We believe this policy would have a greater chance of successful implementation if the proposed ring road were integrated into a broader strategic initiative across South Cambridgeshire, involving other villages that would also be impacted by the proposed route.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input on the GS&S Neighbourhood Plan and trust that these suggestions will be considered in the final drafting. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any further clarification or discussion on these points.

Kind Regards

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Paul Holdom

Harston Parish Council - Vice Chair