

For office use only
Agent number:
Representor number:
Representation number:



Draft North East Cambridge Area Action Plan Consultation 2020

Response Form

How to use this form

If you are able to, please comment online at www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/nec. You can comment on part or all of the Draft Area Action Plan online, and your response can be analysed more quickly and efficiently if you do so.

If you wish to comment using this form, please note we will transcribe all your responses into our online consultation system, and they will be published as part of our consultation feedback.

There are three parts to this form. Please fill in the form electronically or in black ink.

All comments must be received by **5pm on Monday 5 October 2020**. Thank you for taking the time to respond to this consultation.

Part A – Your details

- We ask for your name and postal address because the Councils must comply with national regulations for plan-making. We also ask for contact details but it is optional for you to give these. Please be aware that if you do not provide contact details and 'opt-in' to future notifications, we will not be able to notify you of the future stages of the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan.
- Your name will be published alongside your representations on our website, but your email address, address and phone numbers will not.

Part B - Response to the ten big questions

- This section asks you to answer ten important questions about the Area Action Plan. You can answer some or all.
- Each question has a multiple choice answer and the opportunity to add further comments.

Part C – Comments on specific policies and supporting documents

- You can comment on specific policies in the draft Area Action Plan, and on the draft Sustainability Appraisal, draft Habitats Regulations Assessment and draft Policies Map.
- Please copy this part of the form as many times as you require. You should complete a separate response for each policy or supporting document you wish to comment on.





If you need any further information or assistance in completing this form please contact the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Policy Team on: 01954 713183 or nec@greatercambridgeplanning.org

Part A – Your Details

Please note that we cannot formally register your comments without your name and postal address, because the Councils must comply with national regulations for plan-making.

We also ask for contact details but it is optional for you to give these.

If you do not provide contact details and 'opt-in', we will not be able to notify you of the future stages of the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan.

Name:	Bev Sedley	Agent's name: (if applicable)
Name of organisation: (if applicable)	Cambridge Sustainable Food	Name of Agent's organisation: (if applicable)
Address:		Agent's Address:
Postcode:		Postcode:
Email (optional):		Email (optional):
Telephone (optional):		Telephone (optional):

Signature:	Bev Sedley	Date:	4/10/20
If you are submitting the form electronically, no signature is required.			

Data Protection

We will treat your data in accordance with our [Privacy Notice](#). Information will be used by South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council solely in relation to the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan. Please note that all responses will be available for public inspection and cannot be treated as confidential. Comments, including your name, are published on our website, but we do not publish your address or contact details. **By submitting this response form you are agreeing to these conditions.**

The Councils are not allowed to automatically notify you of future consultations unless you 'opt-in'. Do you wish to be kept informed about future planning consultations run by the Greater Cambridge Planning Service on behalf of Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council?

Please tick: **Yes**(the box wouldn't accept my tick but I do want to be kept informed No

Part B – Response to the ten big questions

1. What do you think about our vision for North East Cambridge?

- Strongly agree
- Agree (the box will not accept my ticks)
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

• Reference to community food growing needed. Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design/Construction Supplementary Planning Doc (2020 sect. 4.4) expects food growing provision in all new residential developments. • More space for biodiversity

2. Are we creating the right walking and cycling connections to the surrounding areas?

- Yes, completely
- Mostly yes
- Neutral
- Mostly not
- Not at all

This is not my area of expertise, but, as a lay person very concerned about the climate emergency, I was pleased to see such attention to creating the conditions for walking, cycling and public transport and creating a neighbourhood where the need for a car is much reduced.

3. Are the new 'centres' in the right place and do they include the right mix of activity?

- Yes, completely
- Mostly yes
- Neutral
- Mostly not
- Not at all

Food growing on specific community sites (allotments/community garden), private spaces (inc balconies) + as opportunity for communal plantings (cf [SPD section 4.4.](#)) need specific mention. Post COVID there's more interest than ever in food growing + eating local (increasing local resilience and health). Need for public drinking fountains.

4. Do we have the right balance between new jobs and new homes?

- Yes, completely
- Mostly yes
- Neutral
- Mostly not
- Not at all

I've put "neutral" (this is not my area for expertise). As a lay person, it looks reasonable, given the desperate need Cambridge has for more affordable homes, but I am not a supporter of the wider Cambridge growth agenda, both on climate change grounds and because it will have a negative impact on Cambridge as a place to live.

5. Are we are planning for the right community facilities?

- Yes, completely
- Mostly yes
- Neutral
- Mostly not
- Not at all

Policy 14 mentions a community centre, and a community room. An adequate communal kitchen should be specified as part of community centre – new Clay Farm community centre suffers from having no proper kitchen provision, which has caused problems for COVID emergency food provision. Need for public drinking fountains.

6. Do you think that our approach to distributing building heights and densities is appropriate for the location?

- Yes, completely
- Mostly yes
- Neutral
- Mostly not
- Not at all

Heights and densities of the buildings are too high, compared to other developments, such as Eddington. This will impact on car usage – as the draft plan says, there are already very high levels of congestion on roads in the area and this will increase that congestion, as well as not leaving enough space for encouraging biodiversity

7. Are we planning for the right mix of public open spaces?

- Yes, completely
- Mostly yes
- Neutral
- Mostly not
- Not at all

There should be more public space - I would like to see more open space for growing food, recreation and nature areas. It should be made clear in Policy 14 that the community garden should be for food growing. Good to link to Milton Country Park, but this is already overused at weekends, with overfull car park.

8. Are we doing enough to improve biodiversity in and around North East Cambridge?

- Yes, completely
- Mostly yes
- Neutral
- Mostly not
- Not at all

It is encouraging to see the attention to biodiversity, but it would be good to see more than the minimum 10% net gain mentioned. There should be specific mention of ways of including measures everywhere possible (for example through pollinator-friendly public planting, making the most of even small opportunities.)

9. Are we doing enough to discourage car travel into this area?

- Yes, completely
- Mostly yes
- Neutral
- Mostly not
- Not at all

This is not my area of expertise, but I applaud the emphasis on increasing walking, cycling, use of public transport. However, I am still concerned that a major new development here will increase traffic on the already congested roads nearby. Even the 0.5 parking space per household will mean a large number of extra cars.

10. Are we maximising the role that development at North East Cambridge has to play in responding to the climate crisis?

Yes, completely

Mostly yes

Neutral

Mostly not

Not at all

Good that climate crisis measures feature prominently in plan. Also needs references throughout to Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction Supplementary Planning Document (January 2020), which has specific guidance. Minimum construction standards for housing should be higher.

Part C – Comments on specific policies and supporting documents

Document details:	
Which document are you commenting on? (please tick)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Draft North East Cambridge Area Action Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Draft Sustainability Appraisal <input type="checkbox"/> Draft Habitats Regulation Assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Draft Policies Map
Policy or section of supporting document that you are commenting on (Please state and be as precise as possible)	POLICY 14: Social, Community and Cultural Infrastructure
Is your comment (tick one):	<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Object

Comments:

Please provide your response to the policy of part of the document you are commenting on. This box will automatically enlarge if you need more space.

Please copy this page for each policy or part of the document you are responding to.

1. Policy 14 rightly includes a community room and a community centre, as well as a community garden. There is no mention of food growing, so it would be good to see it spelled out that a community garden is mainly for food growing (see the very successful [Empty Common Community Garden](#) on Brooklands Avenue). (I assume that the overall site is too small to accommodate allotments (which would otherwise be very desirable - allotment use is increasing around the City.)

- Where there is no space for allotments, there are other ways of encouraging food growing on new developments – provision of balconies (where the design specifically takes this into account), roof gardens and edible public planting (including trees and bushes. There are useful recommendations in section 4.4. Food Growing as Part of New Developments (page 65 of the [Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction Supplementary Planning](#) Document (January 2020)) Here are some points made:

4.4 Food growing as part of new developments

4.4.1 Policies in both the 2018 Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans make recommendations for allotment provision as part of open space standards for new developments⁵⁹. In many cases where provision of allotment on-site is not possible, planning contributions are sought. However, in addition to formal allotment provision, new developments offer the opportunity to think more creatively about incorporating opportunities for food growing into design.

4.4.2 The inclusion of food growing areas extends beyond conventional provision of gardens and

allotments in that it can also include the creative use of roofs, balconies, atriums and courtyards where external space is limited. It could also include the use of edible plants as part of the landscaping of new developments, rather than the use of ornamental trees and shrubs.

4.4.3 There are many benefits associated with food growing as part of new developments, including:

- Improving the physical and mental wellbeing of residents;
- Increasing biodiversity;
- Supporting low carbon lifestyles by reducing carbon emissions associated with long distance food transportation; and
- Greening the urban landscape.

2. There is no mention of an appropriately-sized community kitchen for the community centre. The recent Clay Farm Community Centre was built without a kitchen and this has been a problem, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, when one was needed to cook for the emergency food response. There is increasing recognition that community cookery is important to improve people’s skills and health, and social cohesion. Being able to cook from scratch enables people to eat healthily on a low budget, spending no more than they would on highly processed unhealthy ready-meals. In Cambridge City Council’s recently updated [Anti-Poverty Strategy/Action Plan](#)(sections 5.7. and 5.8), cookery sessions and holiday lunches in low-income areas are specifically mentioned. It will be difficult to provide these if there is no adequate community kitchen and the NEC Area Action Plan should specifically include mention of this.

3. Drinking fountains should be provided in all 4 community districts. The Council has extended the provision of public drinking fountains in recent years and this opportunity should be taken to add more, to

- discourage purchase of single-use bottles of water (and other drinks). Single-use plastic damages the environment and creates an enormous waste problem
- help residents to save money through provision of water in public spaces

Part C – Comments on specific policies and supporting documents

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Which document are you commenting on? (please tick)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Draft North East Cambridge Area Action Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Draft Sustainability Appraisal <input type="checkbox"/> Draft Habitats Regulation Assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Draft Policies Map

Policy or section of supporting document that you are commenting on (Please state and be as precise as possible)	POLICY 23: Comprehensive and coordinated development
Is your comment (tick one):	<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Object

Comments:
Please provide your response to the policy of part of the document you are commenting on. This box will automatically enlarge if you need more space.
Please copy this page for each policy or part of the document you are responding to.

I am concerned that it is too easy for developers to come back and say “We can’t do this.” For the Eddington Development, there was a public body, a “development corporation”, which was in charge of the implementation of the plan and could act in the public interest to manage the plan with the developers. This would ensure that the plans were not weakened while being implemented.

Part C – Comments on specific policies and supporting documents

Document details:	
Which document are you commenting on? (please tick)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Draft North East Cambridge Area Action Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Draft Sustainability Appraisal <input type="checkbox"/> Draft Habitats Regulation Assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Draft Policies Map
Policy or section of supporting document that you are commenting on (Please state and be as precise as possible)	POLICY 20: “Last mile deliveries”
Is your comment (tick one):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Object

Comments:

Please provide your response to the policy of part of the document you are commenting on. This box will automatically enlarge if you need more space.

Please copy this page for each policy or part of the document you are responding to.

It is good to see the inclusion of “at least one”, with the possibility of a second, hub which would act as consolidation centres from which to make “last mile” deliveries (by cargo bikes or electric vehicles) in order to reduce road traffic in the area. It would be good if one hub could be for locally or regionally produced food (see [Cambridge Food Hub’s proposal](#) for a distribution centre and more).

Completed response forms must be received **by 5pm on Monday 5 October 2020**. These can be sent to us either by:

Email: nec@greatercambridgeplanning.org or post, to:

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning
Cambridge City Council
PO Box 700
Cambridge CB1 0JH