

North West Cambridge University's Development Community Group

Minutes of meeting held on 15th March 2012 at Hotel Felix

Those present:

John Chaplin, Storey's Way Residents Association (JC) CHAIR
Rev Janet Bunker, The Parish of the Ascension (JB)
Cllr John Hipkin, Cambridge City Council (JH)
Brian Walker, Castle Community Action Group (BW)
Cllr John Reynolds, Cambridgeshire County Council (JR)
Cllr Phillip Tucker, Cambridge City Council (PT)
David Allen, Cambridge Fire Brigade (DA)
Douglas De Lacy, Girton Paris Council (DD)
Richard Latham, Oxford Road Resident (RL)
Brian Walker, WIRE (BW)

Project Team (PT)

Roger Taylor, North West Cambridge Project Director (RT)
Emma Cutting, Communications Team, North West Cambridge Project. (KF)
Tom Smith, AECOM (TS)
Sam Archer, AECOM (SA)
James Rose, URS (JR)

- 1. Introductions were made and the format of the meeting explained by the chair.**
- 2. RT gave an update on the project and introduced the AECOM design team to the group.**
- 3. AECOM presented sustainability plans for the western edge of the site**

The group asked the following questions – answered by RT and the AECOM team

Q: Why is the project aiming for Code 5 rather than Code 6 Sustainability (JH)

Code 6 means going completely zero carbon and would require all energy to be produced on-site on a renewable basis This is impossible for inner city sites to achieve. Code 5 and Code 6 buildings require identical specifications and 'credits' under assessment, which provide an ambitious, but achievable target. (SA)

Q What is the energy source to the site? (JR)

The main energy source will be gas. (SA)

Q Who will collect the waste? (JR)

The local authorities have not yet decided which will collect the waste but this is currently the subject of discussion between the local councils. (RT)

Q Who, from academia, is involved from a sustainability angle? (DD)

There is a panel from the University of Cambridge chaired by Prof Peter Guthrie with Profs Ian White, Koen Steemers, Ian Hodge (RT)

Q What material will the solar panels be made of? (BW)

This will be decided with the architects in the design stage. The design problems of glass panels fixed on top of roof tiles is understood. (SA)

Q Will there be consideration for ergonomic cycle design? (BW)

There has been a great deal of consideration regarding cycle storage provision, including how the residents will use their bicycles and the different bicycle models that need to be catered for. (SA)

Q What provisions have been made for public transport to and from the site? (RL)

There continues to be discussion with the local authority regarding public transport. The aim is to minimise commuter traffic and walking, cycling and bus provisions are key to achieving this. As part of Section 106 we are agreeing new bus routes. A major part of the S106 provision is the subsidisation of new bus services by the University. (RT)

It was noted that Sunday and evening bus services are important as this extra service could deter people from buying a car.

Q What assurances can you give us in regards to water supply? (JH)

The water strategy is being considered as a key element in the design and sustainability plans (as covered in JR and TS presentation). There may be a water plant on site to deal with the useage of rain water collection and grey water re-cycling, but this has not been agreed (SA). The project team are also in discussion with Anglian water a strategy (RT).

TS and JR presented landscape design plans for the western edge.

Q Will drivers see buildings from the main road? (BW)

Yes, there will be some points along the main road where drivers will see buildings.

Q The floodlit sports centre is very close to the astronomy centre, has consideration been given to potential impact on their research? (DD)

Technology has advanced to a point where the impact of flood lighting is minimised (TS). The Head of Astronomy is a member of the Syndicate for the project so is aware of plans. (RT)

Q Is it possible that both NIAB and NWCD developments will happen at the same time? If so, what impact will this have on construction traffic? (JB)

Access to the site from Huntingdon Road is currently not allowed. Some discussion on use of the northern entrance for construction traffic accessing from the South bound M11 may take place in due course.

Q What measures are in place to ensure plans keep in mind fire requirements? (DA)

The Construction Director is working closely with local authorities and architects to ensure all fire and safety measures are considered as part of the planning and design process.

Q Has there been any profiling of the community that's expected to live in the development? (JB)

There has been a great deal of consideration gone in to this as part of the design process. In summary, it is expected that the average profile within the University housing will be young post-doc researchers.

4. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at the end of June. It was requested that the meeting revisit design briefs and aim to give an overall picture of what is included in phase 1 of the project.

ENDS