

190605 Statement to Cabinet Meeting - Bourn Airfield SPD

For the avoidance of any doubt, I and residents of Bourn and Highfields Caldecote accept that this new village will be built in accordance with the adopted Local plan. Going forward, we want to play our part in ensuring the harms identified in its inclusion in the plan are mitigated properly through the planning process. This SPD is one of the steps in that process.

Following the scrutiny committee meeting on 21 May 2019 I note that officers have taken some of the concerns on board, as stated in today's papers. However, these amendments do not completely address those issues, and it is important for residents of Bourn and Caldecote that we continue to press for this.

1: Separation between Highfields Caldecote and Bourn Airfield.

The papers state on page 100 that I have misinterpreted Policy SS/7 para 6b to mean the strategic landscape will all encompass woodland. I disagree, as I was present at the portfolio holder meeting and full council where this matter was discussed at considerable length.

We in Highfields Caldecote know that the proposed 30m of woodland is inadequate and not what was promised and that the parcel 4 in the main modifications submitted to the Inspector should be planted as a continuous woodland belt.

Planting this parcel as woodland will also increase the green infrastructure on the new settlement and add to the provision of biodiversity gain, meeting one of the councils' core objectives of becoming green and achieving zero carbon by 2050.

The SPD papers make reference to the framework of Highfields being 240 to 270m, when in fact it falls to 214m and will fall to about 30m when the parcel of land behind Grafton Drive given permission for 58 dwellings during the 5YLS hiatus is built out.

Furthermore, we request clarification of the definition of playscape on page 55 of the SPD, in reference to the North East Green Gap, and request that the requirement of the Caldecote Village Design Statement for this area be taken into account and used. It is the gateway entrance to Highfields and should be left open to avoid damaging the setting and character of the village.

2: Access to new village.

Residents of my ward are rightly concerned about the traffic issues and rat running through our villages that will occur when a village of 3500 homes is built out.

The potential for access via the Broadway direct on to the A428 should continue to be explored. I have been informed by County Cllr Mark Howell that the County's Highways & Transport Infrastructure committee have accepted the principle of this direct link.

The SPD seeks to make new policy on page 37 stating the new village will not have direct link to A428. This statement discounting that potential access must be removed.

We see no statement making provision for junction improvements to the Childerley roundabout which is currently slated to take the bulk of the traffic from the new settlement.

3: New Village Centre

We believe the settlement centre should be located centrally, not at the current north west location, whilst still keeping the route for the HQPT to the north of the village if so desired.

This will keep the centre from competing with Cambourne, and put it within the acceptable 800m walking distance of most of the settlement.