



# Vision • Development • Opportunity

## *Growth Delivery in East Cambridgeshire*

**W**orking with the local community and encouraging new sustainable technologies are both essential if sustainable long term growth and supporting infrastructure development is to be achieved in our District.

This newsletter provides an update on East Cambridgeshire District Council's Village Visioning work which is an important part of the process in ensuring that the future Local Plan for the District reflects local people's aspirations. The centre pages highlight some of the more innovative technologies which are making a contribution to a more sustainable future for East Cambridgeshire, whilst progress with other projects in the Council's growth delivery work programme is set out on the back page.

### Village Visions

The District Council is currently working on a new Local Plan to guide growth in East Cambridgeshire. The Local Plan will include a series of 'Village Visions', setting out how each settlement should grow or change over the next 20 years – looking at issues like housing growth, employment opportunities, infrastructure needs, and community facilities.

The first phase of community consultation took place over the summer and focused on a short questionnaire for each village. Over 1,300 people responded to the consultations, with indications of support for small scale growth in a number of villages.



The full results from each village consultation can be viewed on our website: <http://www.eastcamb.gov.uk/local-development-framework/consultation-villagetown-visions>

*With Best Wishes for a Happy Christmas and New Year*

# Investing in new technologies for sustainable growth

**A new development should be looking at ways to reduce its carbon footprint by both cutting down on its energy use, and by generating heat and electricity for its own needs. East Cambridgeshire projects are making the most of these opportunities.**

## Witchford Recycling Centre

East Cambridgeshire District Council Building Control is pleased to have been involved in the construction of the new £5m recycling centre at Witchford.

The building, dubbed a “Cathedral of recycling” by the County Council is the first of its kind to be constructed, utilising an innovative design to provide a functional pleasing building that is set to become a landmark of the local landscape.

The split level design allows for members of the public to access the containers without the need to climb flights of stairs, as would be the case in most centres. The building also sports an environmentally friendly green roof and energy efficient heating to the office areas.



Working together with Building Control, the designers and contractors have delivered an aesthetically pleasing new facility that is sustainable, energy efficient, and accessible to all.

## Wilburton Solar Farm

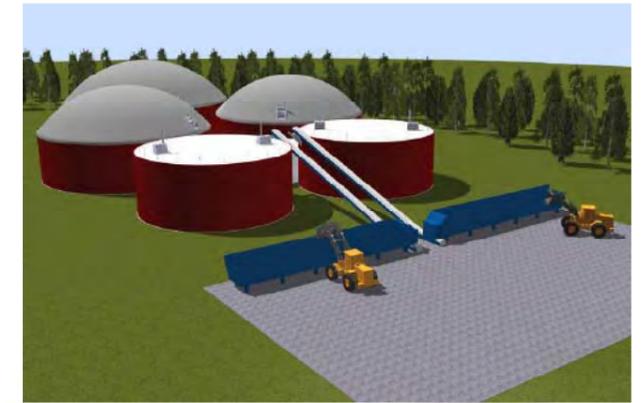
East Cambridgeshire has moved a significant step forward in reducing carbon emissions and fulfilling a ‘Green ‘ agenda, with the completion of a Solar Energy Farm to the south of Wilburton. The Farm is one of the first to be completed in the UK, and is already feeding electricity into the National Grid, generating up to 5 Megawatts.

There are always concerns with new technology, but the development at Wilburton has managed to address these. The site covers approximately 15 hectares, but is comparatively well hidden from any public views. The land can be used for grazing underneath the panels, and even if the land needs to be used for other purposes in the future, the panels can be removed without damage to the environment.



## Littleport Mushroom Farm

Planning permission has been given for a new state of the art mushroom farm near Littleport. The farm, to be developed by Barway Farms Ltd, will have a production capacity of 130 tons per week, significantly reducing the UK’s dependence on imported mushrooms, and create some 160 jobs. It will include an anaerobic digestion plant to produce the heat and electricity needed to run the farm. Outgrade crops from Barway Farms and maize silage will be sent to the Littleport facility to produce electricity and heat to power the mushroom farm. Surplus electricity will be fed back into the grid. After extracting the energy value from the outgrade crops the remaining digestate will be returned to the land to grow further crops, reducing use of synthetic fertilisers, and thus creating a closed loop sustainable cycle.



## Cycle Hub Trial

Cambridgeshire County Council is investigating the potential for establishing a cycle hub in the county and recently ran a trial at Ely Station to see if there is a demand for such a facility here. Some 17% of Ely station users arrive currently by bike and a cycle hub facility could offer cycle related services such as repairs, secure storage, and cycle rental as well as an Ely Cycle Forum. The work follows on from Ely Masterplan studies into the interchange potential of Ely Station and the trial was funded through the EU Interreg IV 2 seas programme



Cambridgeshire County Council



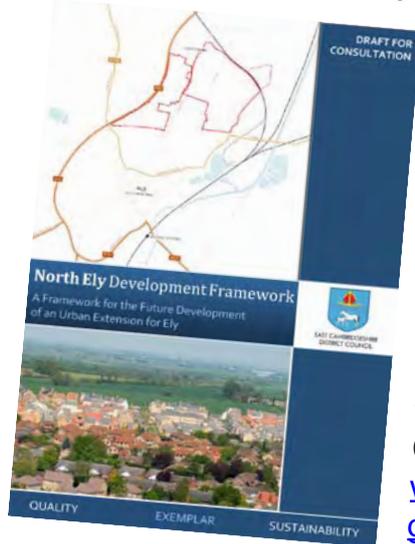
Part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)



Cross border cooperation Program 2011-2014

## North Ely Extension Plans

East Cambridgeshire District Council has set out further details of what it would like to see in the proposed extension to the North of Ely with its 'North Ely Development Framework'. This was approved by the Council earlier this Autumn. A planning application for phase 1 of the development is expected to be received very shortly, and



the Council will be assessing developer proposals against the agreed Framework. The framework document can be viewed on the District Council website, [www.eastcambs.gov.uk](http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk)

## Sainsbury Store due to open soon

If you have been along Lisle Lane in Ely recently you will have seen the building works for the new Sainsbury supermarket. The store is scheduled to open in mid February 2012 creating between 300-350 jobs and will provide some 4,000 sq m of new shopping facilities as well as 454 parking spaces.



Artists impression of the new store.

## 10th Anniversary Milestone



ECDC Vice Chairman Cllr Richard Hobbs giving Anniversary Speech.

The e-space business centre in Littleport celebrated its 10th Anniversary in October this year with a special networking event for businesses.

The successful e-space business centres in both



Business tenants of E-Space.

Ely and Littleport have helped to support a range of start up companies to establish themselves in the District and there are some 120 employees currently working at e-space North in Littleport.

If you would like to keep in touch with future growth delivery work in both Ely and the surrounding district,

- Ask to be included on the Growth Delivery contact database to receive the newsletter updates.
- Look out for updates on the District Council's website under the Growth Delivery Masterplan and Local Development Framework sections [www.eastcambs.gov.uk](http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk)
- Send in your thoughts and ideas,

Email – [masterplan@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:masterplan@eastcambs.gov.uk)

Write to East Cambridgeshire District Council, The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely, Cambs CB7 4EE

Telephone – 01353 665555

