

ELY • LITTLEPORT • SOHAM

Growth Delivery in East Cambridgeshire

This newsletter provides an update on progress with the Council's growth delivery programme. It gives details about the development of the latest masterplan for Littleport, taking Soham Station reinstatement proposals a step forward, and about work to attract retailer interest in Ely. In the current economic climate the Council is seeking to be realistic in its expectations and tailor proposals to what is achievable in the short term, whilst not losing sight of the long term vision for growth.

We hope that you find this newsletter informative, and would welcome any comments that you might have.



Retailer interest in Ely opportunity sites

The business development team recently attended the BCSC National Retail Conference & Exhibition in Manchester. Their aim was to publicise the key opportunity sites that had been identified through the Masterplan process within the district to the retail trade. The exhibition attracted over 2000 delegates with representatives across major developers, retailers and agents providing an excellent promotion, networking and follow up opportunities to market the district to key players within the industry.



Littleport Masterplan nearing final stages

The preferred options for the future development of Littleport have been agreed, following local debate and discussion over the last 12 months, and local people will now get the chance to give their final comments on the plan during a six week consultation period early in the New Year.

The draft Masterplan proposes phased growth for the community, providing for an increase of 1700 new dwellings, which could see the town's population rise from its current 8,000 to 13,000 by the year 2031. It is suggested that this is located to the west of the town to take advantage of proximity to existing road layouts and A10, employment sites and higher land levels. The Masterplan provides for new growth to be set within a green landscape framework, and for new employment and community facilities to be developed alongside the housing growth.

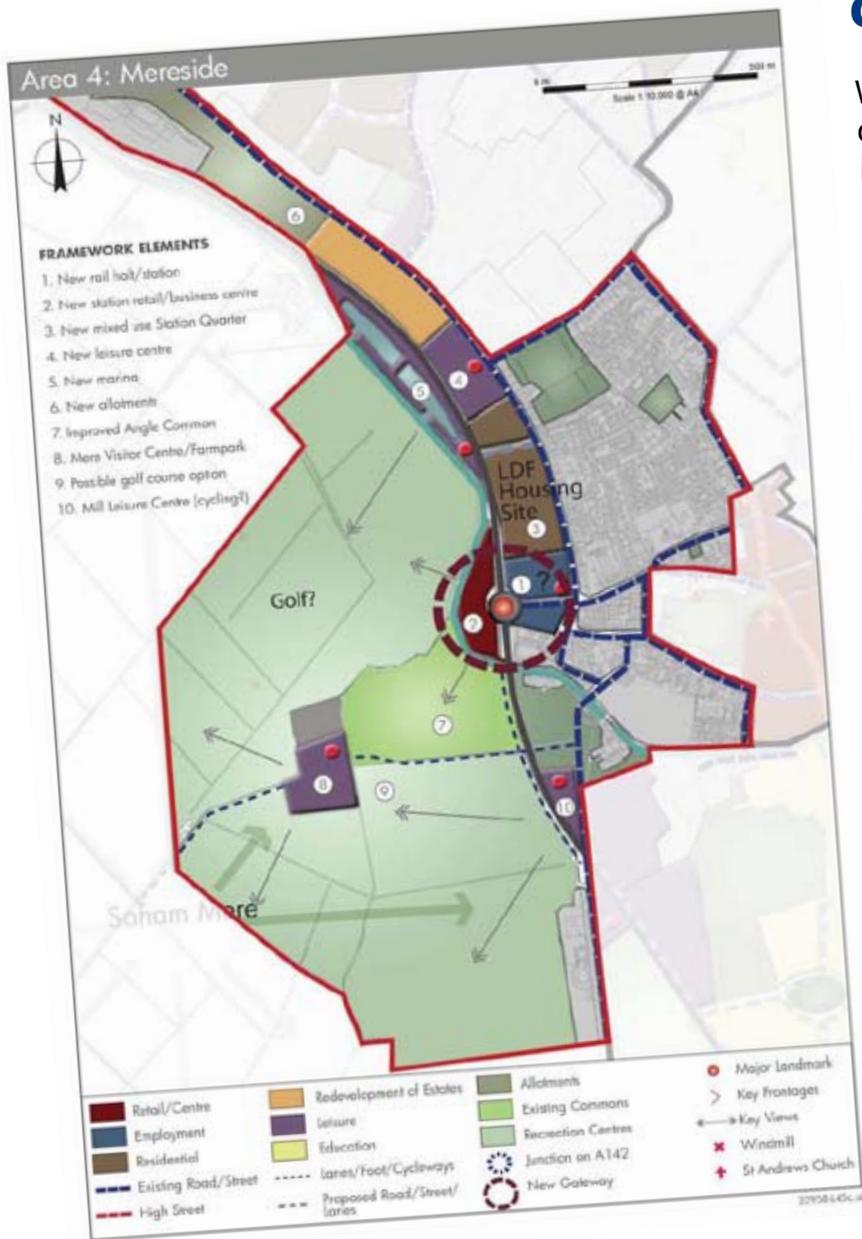
The formal consultation period runs from 10th January 2011 – 21st February 2011. There will also be a public exhibition at Littleport Village Hall on Wednesday 19th January 2011 from 3pm – 8pm and on Saturday 22nd January from 9am - 4pm. For more information e mail masterplan@eastcambs.gov.uk , visit the Council's website www.eastcambs.gov.uk or telephone 01353 665555



Ongoing projects

Work is currently underway on two station related projects in partnership with the rail authorities. At Ely, a site audit is being undertaken looking at the station transport interchange facilities and opportunities to improve these, and public survey work on this is planned for early in the New Year. In Soham, following on from the identification in the Soham Masterplan of the potential for the reinstatement of Soham station, some initial work is being carried out to investigate the engineering feasibility of this. Meanwhile work continues on preparing development frameworks for both the suggested North Ely extension and Ely city centre opportunity sites.

Updates on all of these projects will feature in future newsletters.



Core strategy review

The District Council is undertaking a review of its Core Strategy. This is the planning document which sets out a broad vision and strategy for future growth in the District and it was originally adopted in 2009.

Work on identifying specific development sites to take forward this vision started earlier this year when the Council published some options papers. However, the new Coalition Government is proposing to change the planning system, with streamlined plans and a greater role for local communities ('localism'). They have signalled their intention to abolish Regional Spatial Strategies, with their top down housing and employment targets, leaving local authorities to set their own approach.

As a result, the District Council has decided to review its Core Strategy, which will enable key elements of the Masterplan documents to be included in the revised document, as well as strategic site allocations. The timetable for this review will be published following

publication of the Government's draft Localism Bill, when more details on the new development plan system are known.

Draft SPD on developer contributions and planning obligations

A draft supplementary planning document (SPD) has been produced which sets out the Council's approach to seeking planning contributions from development schemes in East Cambridgeshire. New development can create a need for services and facilities, and this document explains how the Council will secure financial and other contributions from developers towards necessary infrastructure improvements. Consultation on this document is taking place until 20th December 2010.

For more information about the Core Strategy or the SPD please contact the Forward Planning team, tel 01353 665555, e mail ldf@eastcamb.gov.uk

Keep in touch with future developments

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 Masterplan contact database to receive the newsletter updates.
- Look out for updates on the District Council's website under the Masterplan and Local Development Framework sections www.eastcamb.gov.uk
- Send in your thoughts and ideas,
- Contact a member of the Growth Delivery Sub Committee (details below).

Email – masterplan@eastcamb.gov.uk

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

Telephone – 01353 665555

Growth Delivery Sub Committee

This Sub Committee has been set up by the Strategic Development Committee of the Council to make recommendations on the implementation of the Growth Delivery programme, taking into account relevant resources. Their role is to ensure a co-ordinated approach to the longer term development of Ely, Soham and Littleport, taking into account their relationship with the wider district.

Working Party members are:

Councillor Peter Moakes (Chairman) – telephone 01353 659910

Councillor Mike Rouse – telephone 01353 645949

Councillor Sheila Friend Smith – telephone 01353 663118



East Cambridgeshire
District Council