



# ELY • LITTLEPORT • SOHAM

## Growth Delivery in East Cambridgeshire

***East Cambridgeshire District Council has a number of major projects in the district. This newsletter brings you the latest information on the first phase of the Leisure Village at Downham Road, Ely, where work has now commenced on the cinema. There is also an update on the progress of development at North Ely, and the opening of the new school in Ely.***

### **Council launches self-build register**

East Cambridgeshire District Council has launched a self-build register on its website and is inviting everyone who has an interest in building their own home to sign up.

Ensuring the anonymity of contributors, the Council will use the information on the register to explore ways in which it might be possible for people and plots to be brought together.

Anyone who wants to join the self-build register should go to <http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/local-development-framework/register-interest-self-build-and-custom-housebuilding>

If you want to find out more details about the register, please email: [sally.bonnett@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:sally.bonnett@eastcambs.gov.uk) or telephone 01353 665555.

The establishment of a self and custom-build register is in accordance with the Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding Act 2015.

To join a register, you must meet the following criteria (this applies to individuals looking to take on a project or each individual in a group):

- You must be aged 18 or over;
- You must be a British citizen, a national of a European Economic Area state other than the United Kingdom, or a national of Switzerland;
- You are looking to acquire a serviced plot of land in East Cambridgeshire to build a house to live in as your main residence.



## The new Isle of Ely Primary School opened on 12 April 2016.



This is the first community facility for North Ely, and will be managed by the Active Learning Trust - the Executive Head Teacher is Bryony Surtees. The building is home to a range of energy-saving features including



heat recovery ventilation units, daylight-detecting lights and air source heat pumps, and has been built to take advantage of maximum amounts of sunlight.



## Littleport Schools

Work has commenced on the construction of the new education campus comprising secondary, primary (including a pre-school) and special educational needs (SEN) schools, sports facilities including playing fields and the erection of a new leisure centre that will be shared between the school and community. The schools and new leisure centre are due to open September 2017.

# Community Land Trusts

## All together better living

Four Community Land Trusts have been established in East Cambridgeshire in the last two years and the Council is leading the way nationally in supporting community-led development and helping people who choose to live and work locally stay where they want to be.

Thrift CLT for Soham, Stretham & Wilburton CLT, Witchford CLT and Swaffham Prior CLT have all benefitted from the Council's support to set up as legal entities with their own boards of local people acting as volunteer Trustees and together they have gathered hundreds of community members who each pay £1 for their membership.

What exactly is a CLT? It is formed when people from a village, street, neighbourhood or town get together to form an organisation for the good of their community. A CLT looks to meet the long-term needs of a community which is likely to be affordable homes, in an area like East Cambridgeshire, where house prices are high and availability of local houses is slim.

Once a member, people from the local community can contribute through open meetings, responding to regular newsletters and talking to CLT trustees to discuss what gets built and where, what it looks like and who can be offered a tenancy or shared ownership if the assets the CLT builds are affordable homes for local people.

To qualify for a CLT home a set of criteria is applied to each application to find those people with local connections who are eligible.

## More CLTs in the pipeline

Other villages in the area interested in becoming CLTs are Haddenham and Fordham. Kennett has also taken its first steps towards forming a CLT.

In order to continue to spread the word about CLTs, Debbie Wildridge, CLT Adviser at ECDC will be talking at various Parish Council Annual General Meetings over the coming months.

For further information contact Debbie at [Debbie.wildridge@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:Debbie.wildridge@eastcambs.gov.uk)



## Ely Cinema

Work officially commenced on the cinema development on 4 April 2016. The development includes a six-screen Cineworld cinema and restaurant units, four of which have been pre-let to Frankie and Bennys, Greene King for a Hungry Horse, McDonalds and KFC, together with Costa. Two restaurants and two take-away units remain available.

The cinema and food outlets are due to open early 2017.



## • North Ely

Outline planning permission has been granted for Endurance Estate's proposed development at land north of Cam Drive. This will form part of the larger North Ely development area.

Permission was issued following the completion of the Section 106 agreement – this will secure measures and financial contributions to mitigate the impact of the development such as on public open spaces.

The development will provide up to 1200 dwellings, including between 16-30% affordable housing. Other elements of the proposals include a local centre with a foodstore, pub / restaurant, business units, cricket facility, community space, allotments, landscaped areas, associated roads and works such as the drainage system.

ECDC expects to receive detailed planning submissions to deal with planning conditions, such as Character Area Design Codes, and the detailed designs for the first phases of development shortly.

The application for £3million of grant to provide capital funding to Cross Keys Homes for the Extra Care Scheme at North Ely has been successful. Pre-application advice has been given in relation to an Extra Care facility to be sited in Phase Two of the development, off Lynn Road.

## • Soham Railway Station

The GRIP 3 (Governance for Railway Investment Projects) Options and Feasibility study has been commissioned. This will further develop plans for a station and the services needed to make it viable. The GRIP 3 study is due to be completed by early 2017.

A Soham Railway Station East Cambridgeshire District Council/ Cambridgeshire County Council Project Group has been established to oversee the process. The first meeting was undertaken in late March with quarterly meetings arranged.

## • District Leisure Centre

Procurement of an operator to run the new district leisure centre and a contractor to build it is ongoing.

The reserved matters planning application has been submitted and is expected to be presented to the June meeting of the Planning Committee.

## • Ely Southern Bypass

Work is progressing on the business case which is due to be signed off by Cambridgeshire County Council and Department for Transport May 2016. The tender period for the design and build contract ends in June 2016.

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 – [customerservices@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@eastcambs.gov.uk)  
Write to East Cambridgeshire District Council,  
The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely, Cambs CB7 4EE  
Telephone – 01353 665555

