

Stretham



1. Settlement characteristics

Stretham lies just off the A10 from Ely to Cambridge, 4 miles south-west of Ely. Originally the main road ran through the village but a bypass was constructed in XXX. The centre of the village is a pleasant triangle of land with the church, the pub and the Post Office clustered around the Cross. The core of the village lies within a Conservation Area and there are a number of listed buildings. Prominent village landmarks are the Stretham Old Engine, with its tall chimneystack, to the south of the village and Stretham Windmill. The main features of the village are shown on Map xxx.

Facilities in the village include a shop and Post Office, church, primary school, garage, public house and a sports field. The village has a regular bus service to Ely and Cambridge.

2. Key statistics

<i>Stretham</i>	
<i>Population¹</i>	1,720
<i>Dwellings²</i>	780
<i>New dwellings built 2001-2011 (net)</i>	65
<i>Estimated new dwellings 2012-2031</i>	
<i>Employment³</i>	11% work from home, 67% travel up to 20km to work, 17% travel over 20km to work
<i>Existing public transport services</i>	Regular services to Ely and Cambridge (Mon-Sat) (as at June 2012)

3. Housing

Stretham is likely to continue to grow at a slow rate, with new housing being built on suitable 'infill' sites within the village. No new housing allocation sites are proposed on the edge of Stretham.

¹ Population for Stretham parish (mid-2010), Cambridgeshire County Council Research Group

² Dwellings in Stretham parish (mid-2010), Cambridgeshire County Council Research Group

³ Distance travelled to work, East Cambridgeshire 005F Lower Layer Super Output Area (covering Stretham and Little Thetford), Census 2001

A ‘development envelope’ has been drawn around Stretham to define the built-up part of the village where infill development may be permitted. The purpose is to prevent sprawl into the open countryside. Development on infill sites will need to be in line with Policy xx.

Outside the development envelope, housing will not normally be permitted – unless there are exceptional circumstances, such as essential dwellings for rural workers, or affordable housing. A Community Land Trust has recently been established in the village and it is likely that an exceptions scheme may come forward on the edge of Stretham delivering affordable housing and other benefits to the village. This and other housing schemes outside the development envelope will be assessed against Policies xx and xx and other Local Plan policies as appropriate.

4. Employment

There are a small number of businesses in the village, including Prism Media Products Ltd, Crossroads Garage and Ely Design Group. The District Council is keen to retain the stock of business land and premises in order to support local economic growth. Proposals to re-use employment sites for other purposes will only be permitted in certain circumstances (see Policy xx).

No new employment allocation sites are proposed on the edge of Stretham. However, suitable new employment proposals within or on the edge of the village will be supported in principle, subject to Policies xx, xx and xx.

5. Infrastructure and community facilities

Residents in Stretham have indicated a desire for improvements to infrastructure and facilities in the village. A list of priorities is set out in the table below.

	Priority	Suggestions
1	More school places	Liaison with County Council Education department.
2	Improvements to pedestrian/cycle routes	Better pedestrian/cycle route to Ely and Cambridge
3	Improvements to the community/village hall	To be confirmed
4	Improved transport links/public transport services	Railway station on Ely-Cambridge line Real time bus information
5	Indoor sports facilities	Basketball court or skate ramp or older teenagers

The top priority is for more school places in Stretham, which will enable more children to attend school in the village. The District Council will work with the County Council to explore options to address this issue. Other priorities include improvements to pedestrian/cycle routes, the village hall and transport links/services. The District Council will work with the Parish Council and County Council to explore options and secure funding for improvements to community facilities and transport infrastructure in Stretham. In relation to public transport, the District Council will also work in partnership to try to retain existing public transport levels, and encourage self-sufficient transport services, such as community transport.

The current community facilities in Stretham (including the shop, pub, village hall, primary school, church and sports field) contribute to the quality of people’s lives. The loss of community facilities will also be resisted under Policy xx. Proposals for new community development that benefits the village will be supported in principle, subject to Policies xx and xx.

6. Spatial strategy for Stretham (Map xx)



Key	
Development Envelope	Conservation Area
Housing allocation	County Wildlife Site
Employment allocation	Area of International Importance for Wildlife
Scheduled Ancient Monument	Listed Building
Historic Parks & Gardens	Site of Special Scientific Interest

**Map x
Stretham**

N

1:10,000