

Cambridge Past, Present & Future

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FAO: Susan Smith

8 February 2012

Dear Susan,

Long Road - CONSULTATION DRAFT - Cambridge Suburbs and Approaches

CambridgePPF welcomes this study and considers enhancement of this road as important. With reference to the above study our internal Heritage Working Group has discussed the appraisal and has the following comments to make:

Chapter 1

- last para 2 - **description needs to be updated** considering the Clay Farm development and its massive access road as construction has now commenced.

Chapter 3

- para 3.1-3rd para - please note **it has never been the Cambridge Preservation Trust** - was Cambridge Preservation Society now CambridgePPF (please can the consultants update their standard template text as this error has come up repeatedly - are comments made actually forwarded to consultants?).
- last para - **update description** as development has started; para 3.3 - **ditto**.
- para 3.2 - level crossing over railway line - date unclear and needs to be checked (i.e. late 20C there was no level crossing...).

Chapter 4

- para 4.1 - **references to Fig X unclear** and figure not seen; **Character Area 2 - update description** as rural feel now dramatically reduced.
- para 4.2 - from Rail/ GB-bridge **ground dips towards Hobson's Brook** and then gently rises up to Trumpington Road
- para 4.2 - paras 5 and 6 - **insert reference to important footpath and recreational route along Hobson's Conduit Corridor** as well as leading to walking/ cycle route adjacent to new Guided Bus route. Also an important heritage and wildlife corridor.
- para 4.2 - last para and para 4.4 - para 2 - **old farm house of Clay Farm** is set back and now screened in areas with some new houses (cream-yellow brick) built in front even further hiding the old and listed building.
- para 4.3 - recent development next to Old Mill House - **Orangery** - although set back having cycle/garage building adjacent to road **is not a good frontage**

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- design.** This development is also fully gated changing the character and openness of the road. This should not be extended.
- para 4.3 - **trees** - more detail description of tree species (Horse Chestnuts etc.) essential and that they all are large scale trees making the character of sections of the road. Opportunities for new street tree planting should be included and close liaison with County Council's Tree planting as well as City Council's Parks and Recreation Department is essential. Impact of climate change as well as increase of pest and diseases needs to be integrated to ensure ongoing presence of large trees.
 - para 4.4 - **boundary fencing and gates** - this needs updating (due to commencement of development and further approved planning applications) and clearer guidance set; **arable view** (between bridges and Hobson's Brook) - now lost as planning application now approved to change to playing fields with large pavilion structure.
 - para 4.5 - para 3 - **change of use - villas to south-eastern section** (Character Area1) are suffering from redevelopment to flat developments and commercial/ office premises and back garden infill. Impact on tree belt needs to be noted and design guidance established to better protect trees. **Junction with Robinson Way - more of a gateway feature to Hospital area** could be made and signage better integrated.

Chapter 5

- second last para - **the tree shelter belt** is rich in native oaks and as such is deciduous and thus for at least half the year clear views are afforded. Thus statement needs to be revised and **buildings are readily visible and as such CambridgePPF would request that it is essential that an assessment is carried out to better protected potential BLIs or Listed Buildings. This also in view of development pressures in this area.**
- last para - annotation is more striped red.

Detail description of Listed Building and BLIs missing (as per other Suburb & Approaches Studies).

Generally

- **change Old Mill to Old Mill House**, exact location of mill unclear - presumably the working wind mill was a free-standing building away from living quarters?
- **Street lighting** - areas need to be updated to include lighting strategy for the road considering also current construction of the new junction leading to Clay Farm. Description should also highlight areas where historic or special lighting should be kept. The current PFI-contract should be updated and County and City Council funding allocated accordingly and to phases of improvement works.
- **impact on green verges** due to cycle way construction and other pressures need to be assessed and design guidance prepared.
- **Street Furniture** - The only seat (ornate cast iron with timber slats) has been removed in recent years and not replaced (near railway/GB bridges) and now there is a complete lack of street furniture along this road. This needs to be addressed within the area. See also comments made under the various Suburb and Approached Road studies - Hills Road and Trumpington Road. A large enough group of people walks to work, to shop and/ or for recreation. Seats are essential to ensure the needs of less able (including elderly and disabled) walkers to enjoy their city. During the economic down-turn and increasing costs of fuel more emphasis on sustainable access to the city centre should be ensured. Designs should be integrated which provide seating with arm rests and back rests but prevents anti-

social behavior. The city-wide plan and management of street furniture should be revised and the various responsible departments at the City and County Councils should be co-ordinated to avoid loss of street furniture (seats, bins etc), ensure adequate design appropriate for a conservation area and City of Cambridge on the whole.

- **any post boxes/ telephone booths need listing?** Please check.

Mapping

- annotation 'Green Area' is confusing as designated/ protected green spaces are not shown (such as Green Belt, Historic Park & Garden, Protected Open Space, City/ County Wildlife Site etc)
- important views are not highlighted.

CambridgePPF considers that as part of these studies the overall threats and opportunities need to be pooled together to form useful design guidance ensuring the enhancement of one of Cambridge's main access roads.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me or my colleague Nigel Bell.

Kind regards



Carolin Göhler
CEO - CambridgePPF

Encl - none

Cc - English Heritage - note listing of 3rd Milestone is essential

Cambridge Past, Present & Future — a local charity with over 1,700 members working to keep Cambridge and its surroundings special by positively influencing planning developments, delivering environmental education and managing the green spaces and historic buildings in its care — for the benefit of all.

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