

Cambridge City Council

Planning - Pre-Application Developer Presentations

Date: Wednesday, 18 June 2025

Time: 9.30 am

Venue: Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

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Agenda

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Declarations of Interest
- 3 Pre-Application Briefing by the Developer - CoFarm
CoFarm ([CAMBRIDGE — COFARM](#)) Cambridge is a wholly-owned subsidiary of CoFarm Foundation, established by the Foundation to co-create and run Cambridge city's first community farm with and for the community. The farm is being developed off Barnwell Road, in Abbey, on 7-acres of privately-owned agricultural land in the Green Belt, next to Coldhams Common.

The next step in developing the CoFarm is that the planning permission will be sought for a community barn near to the front of the existing allotments. The founder and CEO Gavin Shelton and his architect Tom Foggin (RHP) will be presenting the emerging scheme and concept (20-30mins). There will then be an opportunity for questions and discussion.

Councillor attendance

Whilst any subsequent planning application relating to this site will be determined by the Planning Committee, all Councillors are invited to attend and take part in this pre-application developer presentation.

Purpose of the meeting

These meetings allow developers an early opportunity to present proposals for future planning applications to elected members of the Council.

The process allows Councillors to feed into the process at an early stage and raise any questions or concerns that can then be addressed by the developer prior to a formal planning application being submitted.

Whilst the meetings will be held in public, they do not form part of the formal decision making process. All planning applications will be determined in line with formal processes as adopted by Cambridge City Council.

Format of the Meeting

For each Briefing:

- Introduction by the Head of Planning Services or a Senior Planning Officer – up to 10 minutes
- Presentation by the developer of the proposal – up to 30 minutes
- Opportunity for Members to ask questions, raise issues, seek clarification, comment on the apparent positive and less positive aspects of the proposal – up to 40 minutes

During this part of the meeting it is important that Councillors who may ultimately make the decision on any subsequent planning application do not feel unduly constrained by what they can ask or raise. However they should avoid expressing views that might give any appearance that they are approaching the proposal with a closed mind. The discussion should not be used for negotiations with the developer. These should take place with officers separately from the meeting. Members of the public must refrain from entering into the discussion at the meeting.

- Summing up – up to 10 minutes

A Planning Department representative will take notes of the meeting, which will be a summary of the proceedings. Nothing said by Councillors at the meeting will in any way be binding on the Committee that subsequently determines the application. The notes will be uploaded to the City Council's website upon completion.

Planning - Pre-Application Developer Presentations Members and Ward Members

Information for the public

If you are interested in observing the meeting, please contact the case officer 2 working days in advance of the meeting so that joining details for the meeting can be sent to you. This meeting will be ran online but will not be livestreamed.