

## **Short Briefing Note on Community Cohesion in the Growth Areas 28.9.12**

### **Overview**

#### **Southern Fringe**

Over 4,000 new homes across the southern fringe on Cambridge, most within the city boundary in Trumpington ward but including 600 homes just over the border in Halsingfield Parish. Also a major expansion of Addenbrookes.

Includes new primary and secondary schools and a major new community facility with health centre and library and touch down space for police and social care workers (The facility is being built by the City Council), lots of public open space.

Work underway at Clay farm, Glebe Farm and Trumpington Meadows. The first residents have moved in.

Partnership approach to ensuring new communities are fully integrated with existing communities. Community Forum meets quarterly and brings together partners, officers, members, developers, residents in open meetings where progress is discussed, options considered and questions answered.

Sub-group comprising officers from City, County, South Cambs, Health, local police, education, BPHA etc. meets monthly and co-ordinates service need and activities across the sites. Supported by dedicated Community Development Officer who manages (currently recruiting) a small team including youth workers. Paid for by developer contributions (for 3 to 4 years). Their role is to welcome every new resident, ensure they have the information they need and encourage them to engage in local community activities.

There are a number of formal and informal groups that have spun off to take forward particular activities or projects. For example, a project group is taking forward community and stakeholder engagement to design the Clay Farm Community Facility.

Work includes ensuring services are planning for new arrivals, preparation of welcome packs, planning neighbourhood activities to bring new arrivals together with existing residents. Also manage a community website: <http://www.trumpingtononline.org.uk/> Updates are posted by partners and Trumpington Residents Association.

A work plan covering the needs of children and young people has been produced by partners and is being overseen by the City and South Cambs Children and Young People's Area Partnership.

Key to the success so far has been early engagement with Trumpington Residents Association over a number of years. They have been and remain very supportive and engaged with the process.

## **North West Cambridge**

Over 5,000 new homes plus 2,000 student accommodation units partly within Castle ward within the city boundary and partly within Girton Parish in South Cambs.

Includes new primary and secondary schools, new community facilities and lots of open space.

University (3,000 homes plus 2,000 student units) and the NIAB 1 (1,800 homes) sites have outline planning permission and are due to start on site in 2013 subject to conditions being met. NIAB2 (around 1,100 homes) is all within South Cambs and is unlikely to come forward in the near future.

Partners are planning a similar approach to the southern fringe to community engagement although the relationships are more complex due to a greater proportion of the development being within South Cambs. The structures will include a Community Forum and sub group and also regular joint briefings for elected members from the County, City, South Cambs and Parishes and representatives from nearby Residents Associations within the city.

There is no dedicated community Development resource at the current time although it is expected that funding will be made available to employ a full time worker (with additional support over time) by developers through S106 Agreements once work starts on site. Until this support is available, officers from partner organisations are prioritising some of their time to take work forward.

## **Community Services Infrastructure Group**

This is a high-level officer group which includes as its core, County, City South Cambs, Health and BPHA officers. Its role is to ensure partners have the necessary resources in place and that decisions are being made at the appropriate times to enable growth to happen in a sustainable and cohesive way.

Trevor Woollams  
Head of Community Development  
Cambridge City Council  
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