

Housing Scrutiny Committee – Tuesday 11 March 2025

List of Public Questions

Question 1

We are the Save Ekin Road community group, and we are writing to you regarding Cambridge City Council's plans for Ekin Road. We are a group of council tenants and freehold residents living on Ekin Road, and we seek an update from you regarding the Ekin Road project.

We note that council tenants within the redevelopment zone received a letter last month from the Council, outlining that the Council expects all such residents to have moved out by December 2025, and that legal proceedings will commence against them if they have not moved by then. This was the first these residents had heard about such a deadline, and it was communicated to them through a complicated legal notice.

We also note that in Agenda Item 9 of this meeting, in Section 4.6.4, only 47 council-owned households of the 96 within the redevelopment zone have been relocated in the 9 months since a decision was taken to redevelop Ekin Road. This is fewer than 50%, and there remains only 9 months for the council to relocate over 50% of those households. These will undoubtedly be those who have the most complicated needs, i.e., are currently in houses rather than flats, and/or who need the largest homes.

Many of our members report to us that they are constantly looking at, and bidding on, homes on home-link, and that most weeks there are no suitable homes available. Those that do bid have, by and large, been unsuccessful as they are in need of 3 or 4 bedroom houses.

Thus, we would like to ask you the following questions today:

Question 1:

How does the Council plan to finish relocating the remaining 49 council-owned households on Ekin Road within the 9 months remaining before its self-imposed deadline of December 2025?

Question 2:

In light of the impending deadline of December 2025 for council tenants to move out, does the Council still plan to honour its commitment to tenants to provide them with “like for like” housing?

Question 3:

For those council tenants who are actively seeking homes on Home-Link, what will happen to them if they have been unable to successfully bid on a home by the December 2025 deadline?

Kind regards,

Save Ekin Road

Question 2. The Chair has exercised discretion to accept this public question as the question was received after the deadline to register to speak had passed.

I wish to ask a question in relation to agenda Item 9 para 4.6.8 Framework for Change for North Cambridge.

The crucial importance to the local community of Arbury Town Centre and Arbury Court shops, including the library and Post Office, has been recognised in the Draft North Cambridge Design Code.

As a local resident I was very disturbed to hear from some shopkeepers that their leases will not be renewed beyond 2030 because it is proposed to demolish the shopping centre and flats for redevelopment. It appears that they have been offered no further information or mitigation to support the viability of their businesses leading up to and beyond that date. I am very concerned that we will lose these family-run shops as well as Budgens and the Post Office and library.

1. To what extent is any of the above true?
2. When will councillors and/or officers be engaging directly with the shopkeepers?
3. Will you be offering them incentives to renew their leases or incentives to trade through the rebuild period so that they can occupy any new premises?