

LITTLEPORT



Issue 4
September 2010

Our Town, Our Future

Work on the Draft Littleport Masterplan is Underway

The preferred options for the future development of Littleport have been agreed and work has commenced on producing the draft Masterplan document.

At the last meeting of the Littleport Masterplan Working Party, Members heard how plans for a new school, improved footpaths/cycleways and employment opportunities were amongst the most important issues for local people.

Over 100 people attended the Options Stage Public Exhibition held in June and gave their views on the ideas put forward. The headlines from the feedback can be found on pages 2 and 3. The full feedback report can be found on the Littleport Masterplan pages of the East Cambridgeshire District Council website – www.eastcambs.gov.uk.

These comments and ideas will be incorporated into the draft Masterplan for Littleport which will shape how the town can change, develop and grow over the next twenty years.

The draft document will go out for public consultation early next year ahead of a final version being produced in 2011.



Feedback from Public Exhibition – Options Stage

The purpose of the options stage consultation was to gather views on the options presented, in particular on the future level of growth for the town. Consultation activity included a public exhibition, which was attended by 113 people, a questionnaire, completed by 95 people, a community stakeholder workshop and meetings with key stakeholders.

The options were presented in five frameworks, Landscape and Public Realm, Neighbourhood Structure, Built Form, Movement and Linkages and Town Centre.



Landscape and Public Realm Framework:

- 92% of respondents agreed that enhancing and embracing the town's natural surroundings should be a fundamental principle of the Masterplan.
- Respondents also suggested that more green open space should be provided in the town centre and around existing town centre homes especially on new estates.

Neighbourhood Structure Framework:

- 63% of people liked the neighbourhood structure proposals, but people were concerned about the impact they would have on the town centre.
- The preferred location for the secondary school was option 2 – off Woodfen Road (37%), followed by option 1 – near the leisure centre (32%).

Movement and Linkages Framework:

- 60% of respondents agreed that walking and cycling should take priority over other modes of transport. 31% disagreed and said that the Masterplan should include more on public transport, to serve those unable to walk or cycle.
- It was felt that improvements to station/rail services in particular are needed.

Built Form Framework:

- 62% of respondents voted for the lower growth scenario (approx 1,220 new homes by 2025), 24% for the medium growth scenario (approx 2,270 new homes by 2031) and since 14% for the higher growth option (approx 3,250 new homes by 2031).
- The preferred area for growth was to the West (36%), 26% opted for both to the East and West, and 18% to the East. 9% said neither area.
- Both off Wisbech Road (58%) and around Littleport Station (54%) were felt to be suitable locations for employment. 24% of people thought businesses should be located in the town centre.

Town Centre Framework:

- 76% of respondents agreed with the suggestion to maximise retail uses on the west side of the town centre
- 82% agreed there should be more community uses in the town centre.



Selection of preferred options and preparation of the draft Littleport Masterplan Document

Having considered the feedback from the options stage consultation, the Littleport Masterplan Working Party Members agreed the options to be included in the Masterplan at the Working Party Meeting held on 3rd August 2010. These were:

- To include the green landscape framework proposals in the Masterplan
- Not to include the neighbourhood structures proposal but to concentrate facilities in the town centre
- To include the movement and linkages framework, subject to further work to open up access to land in this area
- A phased medium growth scenario, with this growth being located to the west of the town
- To commission further detailed work on proposals for the town centre

Work on producing the draft document is underway and there will be a formal six week consultation on the draft document in January and February 2011.

How to get involved

Ask to be added to the Littleport Masterplan contact database via masterplan@eastcambs.gov.uk or by telephoning **(01353) 665555** to receive copies of the Littleport Masterplan newsletter.

Attend the next Littleport Masterplan Working Party Meeting being held on Tuesday 19th October 2010 at 7.30pm in the Community Hall at Littleport Community Primary School, Parsons Lane, Littleport.

Send your thoughts and ideas via email to masterplan@eastcambs.gov.uk or write to Littleport Masterplan, East Cambridgeshire District Council, The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely, Cambs CB7 4EE.

Littleport Masterplan Working Party

The Working Party was set up by the Strategic Development Committee at East Cambridgeshire District Council to ensure that the masterplan progresses in a structured and open manner. Their role is to ensure a coordinated approach to the long-term development of Littleport, and to ensure effective and meaningful dialogue and consultation during the development of the Masterplan. They meet regularly in Littleport to help guide the Masterplan project and all meetings are open to the public.

Working Party Members are:

Councillor Peter Moakes (Chairman) Tel: 01353 659910

Councillor Christine Ambrose-Smith Tel: 01353 861010

Councillor Sue Austen Tel: 01353 663928

Councillor Malcolm Pyrah (Littleport Parish Council) is a co-opted member

Councillor David Brown (Cambridgeshire County Council) is a co-opted member

