

# Cllrs Lorna Dupré and Mark Inskip

## MONTHLY REPORT MARCH 2020

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### Citizens Advice

The full council meeting on 20 February confirmed the decision to totally cease funding the Citizens Advice service in East Cambridgeshire. As a result of this, Citizens Advice has confirmed that the office in Market Street Ely will close at the end of March. This is very bad news indeed for the future of independent advice in East Cambridgeshire.

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### Co-op at Ely Road Sutton

Mark has received confirmation from the Central England Co-operative that they intend a full start on site during the week beginning Monday 9 March. Provided everything goes to plan, the new shop should be open around November this year—an exact date will be confirmed once all final matters are signed up to and formally scheduled. Pedestrian and cycle access through the site should be maintained at all times.

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### Bus, cycling and walking consultation meetings

We have arranged three public meetings in the Sutton ward to discuss the council's bus, cycling and walking consultation. Do come along and have your say:

- Monday 16 March, 7:30PM-9:30PM, Witcham, Village Hall
- Tuesday 17 March, 7:30PM-9:30PM, Sutton, School Community Room
- Monday 30 March, 10:00AM-12:00 noon, Mepal, Village Hall

Questionnaires should be delivered to all households in the week beginning Monday 9 March. Drop boxes to return paper questionnaires can be found at the locations indicated on the questionnaire. For the Sutton ward these are:

- Mepal Post Office and Stores, High Street, Mepal CB6 2AW
- The Glebe, 4 High Street, Sutton CB6 2RB
- One Stop, 20 High Street, Sutton CB6 2RB
- Sewing Daze, 69 High Street, Sutton CB6 2NL
- Finlaggan, Church Street, Wentworth CB6 3QE (letter box on gate)
- The White Horse, 7 Silver Street, Witcham CB6 2LF

The questionnaire can also be completed online at [www.eastcamb.gov.uk/buscyclewalk](http://www.eastcamb.gov.uk/buscyclewalk)

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## Garden Close

We have written to the district council's Planning Department to object to the detailed planning application by Abbey Homes for the 53 houses at Garden Close Sutton (20/00177/RMM). This is what we have said.

"As the two district councillors for Sutton, we would like to make the following representation in respect of the above application. The application is for reserved matters only, namely appearance, landscaping, layout, and scale.

### Sutton Neighbourhood Plan

This application needs to be considered in the context of Policy NP5 (Land East of Garden Close) of the Sutton Neighbourhood Plan. This policy states:

#### Policy NP5

The site was granted outline planning consent on appeal on 18 January 2019 and is allocated for up to 53 dwellings including public open space to be constructed in accordance with the conditions set out in the Inspector's Decision Letter—appeal ref: APP/ V0510/W/18/3195976, or any subsequent approval. Additionally, the development should:

- i) be predominantly low density single-storey dwellings;
- ii) retains existing mature trees and hedgerows;
- iii) preserves and enhances views from the south towards the Church, from Lawn Lane eastwards and Station Road westwards across the cricket fields and open spaces.

Entirely contrary to requirement (i) of the Neighbourhood Plan, the application is for a two-storey development, completely out of keeping with its predominantly bungalow surroundings and leading to an over-developed appearance and disproportionate scale.

The tree survey identifies only two trees in the area of the development as 'mature', with the majority of the remainder labelled 'early mature' or 'semi mature'. Of these latter, a number are categorised C or 'trees of low quality', which according to the recommendations 'should not represent a constraint' on development. This is contrary to requirement (ii) of the Neighbourhood Plan for retention of mature trees.

### Errors and omissions

A number of errors have been noted by consultees to this application. These include the alignment of the access road and footways, resulting in a holding objection from Highways; and incorrect statement of the site boundary resulting in an objection from a neighbour whose property is omitted from the plans and part of whose land is incorrectly included in the site boundary.

Details have not at the time of writing been supplied about the pumping station indicated in the masterplan, including information about noise requested by Environmental Health.

The waterlogged nature of this site, and the constant drainage problems experienced by residents around the site, have been a concern for many residents since the inception of the proposal for development. Insufficient information is given in the application about how the applicant proposes to manage this. At the very least conditions would need to be laid down that land levels will not be changed, to avoid exacerbating existing drainage problems.

### **Conclusion**

In view of the above we wish to object to this application on the grounds of its failure to conform to the requirements of the Sutton Neighbourhood Plan policy for this site; and in view of the errors and omissions which taken together result in a seriously defective application.

We assume the application will be determined by the Planning Committee, and if this is not currently intended would request that this letter be taken as a request that it should be called in to the Planning Committee for determination."

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### **Delicatessen at 65 High Street Sutton**

We have confirmed our request to call in planning application 19/01635/FUL for one first-floor flat with access and parking at 65 High Street, Sutton.

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### **Budget**

The council set its budget on 20 February. We tried to amend it to include a Strategic Planning Committee to improve the council's record on local planning, but this was defeated. Defeated too was our proposal to establish a council officer post to work with parishes interested in taking action on climate change.

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### **Planning appeals update**

A planning appeal in Fordham was recently allowed by the Planning Inspectorate. The Inspector stated that the council could currently evidence only a 2.1 year land supply, instead of the required 5.0 years.

The council has challenged this statement, and will be giving it only limited weight in considering planning applications. However, if the council has a land supply figure below 3.0 years, all the Neighbourhood Plans in the district fall. This is further evidence of the need for a Strategic Planning Committee!

An updated housing supply figure is to be published by the council on 21 April which is expected to be above the crucial 5.0 years. However this may well be challenged in future appeals by developers.

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### **Antisemitism**

The council at its meeting on 20 February passed a motion on antisemitism. We tried to amend it to include reference to acts of religiously motivated hatred against people of Islamic faith, but this was voted down, as was our attempt to widen the motion to condemn discrimination more generally.

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### **Meet your councillors**

- Tuesday 14 April, 6:30PM-7:30PM, Sutton, School Community Room
  - Tuesday 12 May, 6:30PM-7:30PM, Sutton, School Community Room
  - Tuesday 9 June, 6:30PM-7:30PM, Sutton, School Community Room
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**Cllr Lorna Dupré**

**Cllr Mark Inskip**

District Councillors for the Sutton ward