

Additional information to Written Representation from Cambridge Friends of the Earth, submitted on 16th June 2023: Cambridge Friends of the Earth objects to this development in the strongest possible terms, with our prime concern being the threat to the Green Belt from the construction of the new sewage treatment works.

In spite of arguments that may be put forward about the ecological 'merit' or otherwise of the land proposed for the new sewage works - and in this case we happen to believe it has considerable ecological merit - a Green Belt's primary purpose is to prevent city spreading into the surrounding countryside if and when its population and economy grow. As such, given its phenomenal growth over the preceding decades, Cambridge's surrounding countryside is in desperate need of the protections offered by its Green Belt.

The fact that Anglian Water themselves have stated that there are no operational reasons to move the sewage works, makes us wonder why the essential asset of the Green Belt is being sacrificed to the out of control juggernaut of inappropriate, profit driven, out of scale development in Cambridge.

<https://ukpropertyforums.com/anglian-water-submits-proposal-for-sewage-works-relocation/>

Questions we feel need answering:

1. Where will the water supply come from for the thousands of houses planned to be built on the site? Cambridge's aquifer is already being over-abstracted to the detriment of the river and surrounding environment, how is this seemingly intractable issue going to be resolved and surely it needs to be resolved before further development is countenanced?

References in support of this:

<https://www.friendsofthecam.org/content/over-abstraction>

<https://friendsofcherryintonbrook.org.uk/Water.html>

<https://www.cambridgeindependent.co.uk/news/coldham-s-common-chalk-stream-dries-up-lack-of-rain-and-ove-9276554/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/aug/24/river-cam-cambridge-river-punts-environment-extraction-chalk-stream>

<https://camvalleyforum.uk/cambridge-water-reject-plea-for-a-hosepipe-ban/>

<https://www.cambridgeindependent.co.uk/news/1-000-homes-in-cambridge-should-not-be-built-due-to-water-s-9337504/>

2. Given the publicised 'green credentials' of the proposed new sewage works, how long will it take to offset the CO2 produced during its construction?

3. Given the City Council's interest in the site, how many homes for genuine social rent (ie Council Houses) are proposed to be built on the site?

We notice that there are approximately 2400 households (as of May this year) on the City Council's housing register (<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/11591/housing-register-applications-lettings-key-facts-report.pdf>) and that the proposed number of houses, if built as social housing, could completely empty this list at least twice over.

4. Who benefits from this development?

We understand that, when Anglian Water was created, there was a subsequent agreement to split the ownership of the sewage works site. The City Council retained a large area and have only disposed of part of this since. The City Council and Anglian Water stand to make will make a huge financial gain from this development. Although outside the remit of this inquiry, we wonder how much of Anglian Water's profits from this development will be re-invested into improvements in their crumbling infrastructure, rather than squandered on shareholder dividends, executive pay and bonuses and repayment of interest on 'loans' made between various sections of their parent company?