

Closing Submission by Fen Ditton Parish Council**12 April 2024**

- 1) FDPC remains opposed to the proposed new wastewater treatment works at Honey Hill. FDPC objects to developments in the Green Belt since this preserves the character of Fen Ditton as a historic community surrounded by open, green space separating us from the city. FDPC has engaged with the Examination and with the Applicant throughout earlier consultations.
- 2) FDPC supports the Save Honey Hill community action group. FDPC agrees with their conclusion that the Applicant has failed to justify:
 - a. The principle of development
 - b. The need for relocation and redevelopment of all the land occupied by the existing Cambridge WWTW
 - c. The assessment of alternatives
 - d. Compliance with the NPPF and the Development Plan
 - e. The case for development in the Green Belt
 - f. The scope of the proposed development and the adequacy of the Environmental Statement.

FDPC therefore requests the Examining Authority (ExA) to recommend to the Secretary of State that the application for the Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant Relocation Order be refused.

- 3) If ExA concludes it will recommend acceptance, FDPC requests that further changes are made to mitigate the impacts of the proposed project. Although a few points have been resolved during the Examination, the current proposals are not considered by FDPC to be completely satisfactory. Detailed proposals for changes have been made by FDPC and SHH throughout the Examination and are not repeated in this submission. Instead, a few key points are highlighted in the following paragraphs.
- 4) FDPC consider that the 30+ staff not essential to the operation of the proposed WWTW should not be relocated to it and the Gateway Building and associated parking facilities should be reduced in size accordingly. Traffic congestion at J34 at peak times and visual intrusion would reduce significantly. Such staff can make better use of public transport or non-motorised means of travel if sited at or near their existing offices. FDPC draw ExA's attention to the current funding proposal submitted by the Applicant in which land sales would help fund a large office and car parking to be built in the Green Belt – a proposition that should be rejected.
- 5) FDPC consider the earth bank and landscaping proposed at deadline D6 lack sufficient detail to ensure the visual intrusion and setting of conservation areas is not worsened by any lowering of the earth bank below 5m height, itself a value less than the 7m put forward in earlier consultations.
- 6) FDPC consider that the Ecological Clerk of Works should have a major role in preventing unnecessary damage to vegetation and the habitats of rare and endangered species and an early appointment to the post is recommended.
- 7) FDPC note there are a number of outline designs and management plans which will be refined to a detailed level by the Applicant before obtaining approvals. Although FDPC as a parish council is explicitly included in some plans (eg. The Landscape and Environmental Management Plan), we wish to be consulted on others. A full list should be agreed with CCoC but is likely to include plans in the construction and operational phases covering the Design Code, Travel, Transport, Logistics, Odour, Lighting, Noise and Community Liaison.