

# FEN DITTON PARISH COUNCIL

Steve Reed OBE MP  
Secretary of State.  
Water Infrastructure Planning & Delivery Unit  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

13 November 2024

By e-mail only

Dear Sir,

**Application by Anglian Water Services Ltd for an Order granting Development Consent for the Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant Relocation Project (DCO/CWWTPR24) - Revisions to the NPPF**

We refer to your letter dated 16 October 2024 inviting representations from Interested Parties in relation to Emerging Planning Policy, specifically the proposed revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and other changes to the planning system, which were the subject of a Government consultation that commenced on 30 July 2024. This letter is the response from Fen Ditton Parish Council (IP 20041408) and addresses two questions:

- (a) the extent to which the proposed revisions to national planning policy, in particular, as regards house building and green belt, are relevant to the determination of the Application; and
- (b) the weight that a decision-maker should attach to the proposed revisions i) while they remain in draft; and ii) in the event they become adopted national planning policy.

FDPC supports the Save Honey Hill community action group and the points made in their response and letter to you on this topic dated 6 November 2024. For brevity, we are not repeating these points in our letter.

We would like to draw your attention to FDPC's responses to consultations and submissions to the Examination detailing our opposition to the principle of the scheme and our conclusion that the Green Belt in this area around Cambridge is of such importance that development within the Green Belt should not be permitted.

We consider that it is important that pressure on the Green Belt is not exacerbated by overstating the number of homes required through the Local Plan and that increasing the buffer to 20% is avoided. Increasing the buffer size would encourage land hoarding, permit developers to more easily cherry pick the more profitable sites thus increasing uncertainty as to where and when infrastructure is required with attendant costs to wider society. In addition, Greater Cambridge is receiving Government funds to improve transport links such that connectivity will improve to areas outside the Green Belt and in neighboring authority areas.

We wish to draw your attention to a point made by many residents that creating a large, industrial plant at Anglian Water's proposed site was likely to lead to further proposals in

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the land around it and, indeed, this fear has been shown to be valid by the recent suggestion that a large solar array could be developed on adjacent land north and east of Anglian Water's proposed site.

Throughout the examination, the Inspectors were clear that the application for the Waste Water Treatment Works relocation should be considered on its own merits and that very limited weight should be given to the housing development it is proposed to facilitate through the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan, given the relatively early stage of plan preparation and that it is has not been through independent examination. We would respectfully suggest that similarly very limited weight should be applied to the increased housing demands within the consultation draft NPPF and, in line with previous submissions by Fen Ditton Parish Council and Save Honey Hill, the application for the Waste Water Treatment Works relocation under the Development Consent Order, should be refused.

Yours faithfully,

Charles Jones,  
pp Vince Farrar  
Chairman

c/c Parish Clerk,  
Fen Ditton Parish Council  
email: [clerk@fenditton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@fenditton-pc.gov.uk)

C/C Councillor Anna Bradman CCC  
Councillor Claire Daunton CCC  
Councillor Graham Cone SCDC  
Councillor Carla Hofman SCDC  
Councillor John Williams SCDC

Anglian Water – Attn K Barclay  
Margaret Starkie – Chair, Save Honey Hill