

Horningsea Parish Council

Rt Hon Steve Reed MP
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

15th November 2024

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)

This is a response from Horningsea Parish Council (IP 20041361) to your letter dated 16th October 2024 requesting further representations from Interested Parties with particular attention paid to “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 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 as national planning policy.


Firstly, we would like to apologise unreservedly for the lateness of this response and would politely request that the Secretary of State accepts this response despite its tardiness.

Horningsea Parish Council continues to be extremely grateful to the Save Honey Hill campaign group (IP20041423) and all that it has contributed on behalf of the Horningsea community. Horningsea Parish Council continues to fully support and agree with all representations the group makes on the community’s behalf.

We would like to state again our unequivocal belief that this DCO application should be refused on the basis that there is no operational need to move a fully functioning sewage works, which was updated at considerable expense as recently as 2016/17, to Green Belt, as no exceptional circumstance has been shown.

Changes to Green Belt policy in the draft National Planning Policy Framework continue to favour protection of the Cambridge Green Belt. We are told the *raison d’être* for the move is to release brownfield for housing development. We continue to believe that to build an industrial plant on Green Belt in order to create a brownfield site for housing is counter-intuitive and plain wrong, particularly when you also consider that the Green Belt in question is arable farmland and contributing to the country’s increasingly vulnerable food security. The New Standard Method guidance reinforces the fact that redevelopment of the core site is not necessary, that new housing in Cambridge to support the local economy is still possible without it.

Clerk: Hayley Livermore

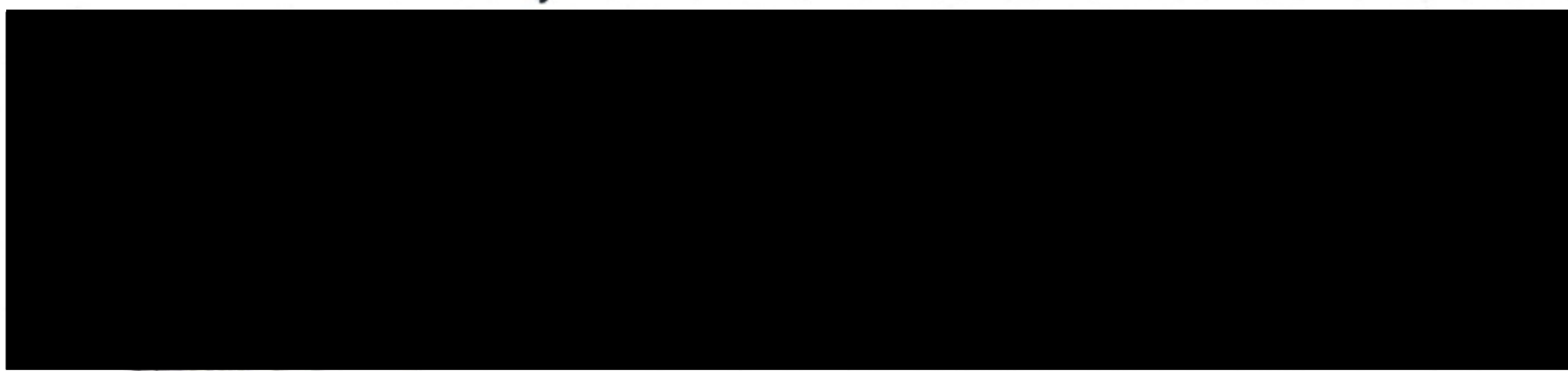


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It is also the case that the North Cambridge Area Action Plan and specifically Hartree (the core development site) includes a large amount of R&D space which if it goes ahead, will create even more jobs than the planned housing can feed. We believe very strongly that Homes England funding has been inappropriately granted to a project that will make the housing deficit in Cambridge worse not better. Additionally, Homes England recently broke its own funding cap by agreeing a further £50m to the project in response to associated spiralling costs. We believe the return on this investment continues to be unproven and very bad value for public money.

Horningsea Parish Council repeats its strong objection to the DCO application and urges the Secretary of State to refuse.

Yours faithfully



Will Neale
Chair
Horningsea Parish Council

Clerk: Hayley Livermore

