Waterbeach Barracks Newsletter Summer 2017





# Hello

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Welcome to the sixth community newsletter from Urban&Civic. Urban&Civic is the Development Manager appointed by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) to take forward the development of the former Waterbeach Barracks and Airfield site.

With the Outline Planning Application submitted in February 2017, and formal consultation events concluded, the key partners involved are working through a range of follow-up discussions and technical reviews as part of the planning process.

While those discussions continue, Urban&Civic is continuing to open up the Barracks for local use and is building local partnerships to ensure the development coming forward maximises local benefits and minimises local impacts.

In this newsletter we set out the latest on the planning discussions and some of the recent community events on site including the Waterbeach Running Festival, Summer at the Beach and the reopening of the Waterbeach Military Heritage Museum. We have also been out and about exploring Denny Abbey and the Farmland Museum.

We are always happy to meet up with anyone who wants a more detailed discussion of the plans, to come along to speak to local groups or provide a tour of the site or the facilities for hire. Please get in touch with me using the contact details below.

Very best wishes

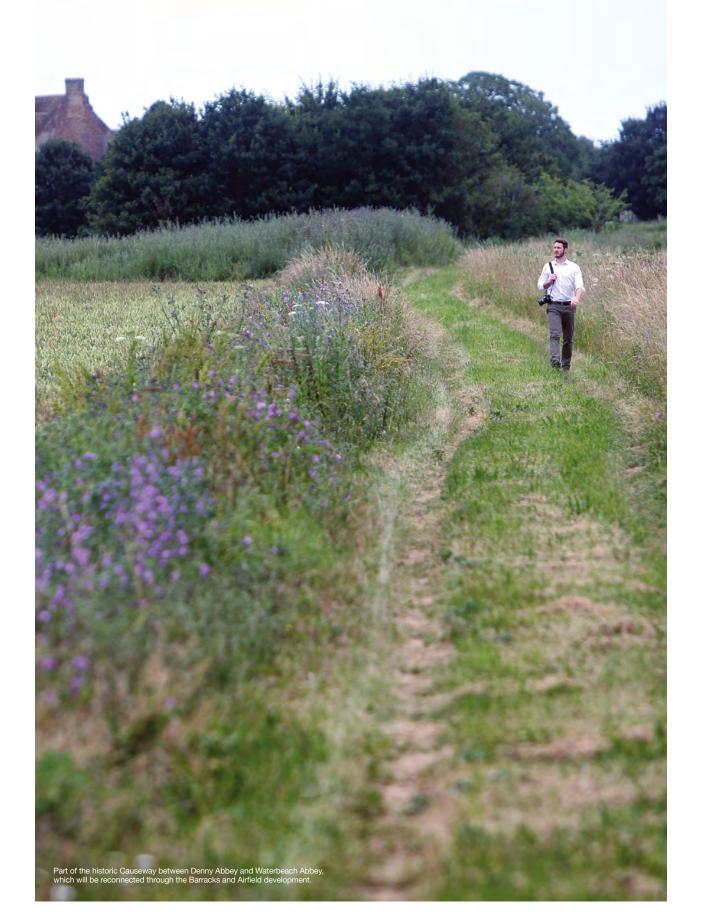
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# **Community Features**

Waterbeach running festival raises money for Toddler Playgroup

It is great to see the running festival go from strength to strength.

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**Rebecca Britton** 

Over 600 runners took part in the Waterbeach Toddler Playgroup's second running festival at Waterbeach Barracks in May, raising nearly  $\pounds4,000$  for the charity.

This family-friendly event included 2km, 5km and 10km races, as well as a 100m toddle for children under five years old. Waterbeach Brass Band gave runners an extra boost and accompaniment as they neared the finish line.

Alongside the races, attractions included a bouncy castle and slide, bushcraft activities, children's colouring corner and refreshment stalls available as part of the Festival Village.

Jessica Kitt, from Waterbeach Toddler Playgroup, said: "It was a great day, everyone seemed to really enjoy themselves and we've smashed our fundraising target - so a big thank you to everyone who took part and also to the volunteers and sponsors who helped make the event possible.

"Watching the under 5s take part in their 100m toddle was perhaps one of the most entertaining moments, with children running – or not – in all directions."

Urban&Civic's Rebecca Britton said: "It is great to see the running festival go from strength to strength – with the number of attendees and funds raised almost double that of last year. Lots of runners achieved personal bests and there was a real sense of community spirit, with people having lots of fun whilst supporting a local charity."

Waterbeach Toddler Playgroup is currently fund-raising for its move to new premises on the Barracks site. Urban&Civic is working with the County Council to secure a change of use for the former shooting range building, which sits next to the community rooms and Museum.

The plans are to turn this building into an early years' space for Waterbeach Toddler Playgroup. A Planning Application by the County Council has been submitted, and there will be a chance to drop in to talk to the Council team and see the plans in the Community Rooms on 28 September, 2pm – 7pm.

Further details will also be provided in the next edition.

For details about the event or the Playgroup, visit: www.waterbeachtoddlerplaygroup.org.uk

# Summer showcase of creative talent



For the second year running Waterbeach Barracks provided the venue for "Summer at the Beach", over the first three weekends in July. Local artists, exhibiting their work as part of the Cambridge Open Studios events, were joined by an eclectic mix of creative talent from the village.

Around 600 people came along to see the art and craft exhibits, listen to live music, attend book signings, participate in workshops and soak up the summer sun in a relaxed and inspiring series of events.

Gideon Pain, local artist and event coordinator, said: "Summer at the Beach is a fantastic opportunity for Waterbeach's artistic community to come together, showcase its talent and celebrate the place that inspires us. This year we extended the event to include authors, filmmakers and musicians and are delighted that so many people from the village joined us and participated in the events." Artists displaying in The Studio and the Community Rooms, included:

#### Sara Noel

Working as The Claysmith – decorative and practical ceramics inspired by typeface, nature and some of the prints of Louise Bourgeois.

#### Sheena Grummitt

Ceramic artist using hand building to create sculptural and functional pieces inspired by nature.

#### Theo Gayer-Anderson

Sculptor working in many media including ceramic, stone and bronze.

#### Gideon Pain

Oil and acrylic painter working out of a small home studio and regularly exhibiting nationally and internationally.

#### **Chris Evans**

Mixed media painter recording the icons, archetypes and signposts he encounters.

#### Andrew Taylor

Mixed media painter creating abstract collages using a variety of materials including plaster, paint and fragments of maps, music and poems.

#### **Tarryn Porter**

Illustrator and painter capturing the atmosphere and essence of text in artworks.

#### **Richard Youell**

A landscape and street photographer, a field sound recordist and sound installation artist.

#### Ian Bracey

Photographer and painter mainly focused on landscape, cityscape and travel subjects.

#### **Susan Barnes**

Screen prints created from photographs taken in her travels, using overlaying colour.

#### Karen Lewis

Milliner inspired by themes from the natural world, creating her own textures using feathers, embroidery and beadwork.

### Finn Buchanan and Leila Aluwihare

Both mixed media artists, also exhibited having recently graduated from the Long Road Foundation Course. In addition to the art exhibition, Summer at the Beach involved other events and activities celebrating the diverse range of creativity within the community, including:

- The Beach Sessions presented chilled out Music by the Runway featuring some of the region's best acoustic singer/songwriters: Clockwork Cassettes, Melody Causton, David Greeves and St Simeon & the Stylites.
- A screening of Finding Family, the deeply moving story of double Bafta winning Cambridge filmmaker Oggi Tomic's return to his native Bosnia, 27 years after being abandoned in an orphanage, to meet the mother and family he never knew.
- Waterbeach novelists, Penny Hancock and Guinevere Glasfurd held an author discussion and book signing, sharing their work, and how

Waterbeach and the Fens continue to shape their writing.

 The Great Nepal Book Swap – the fourth such event with proceeds going to an orphanage in Nepal. Previous donations provided each child in the orphanage with a new book once a month and text books, as well as covering the cost of a bookcase.

There was also a paper plane workshop where creations were decorated before test flights, a bike bling workshop where old bicycles were transformed and made to sparkle, a display of one of the Cambridge 31a Model Railway Club's layouts and the Waterbeach Cycling Campaign discussing cycling issues in the Waterbeach area and offering bike repairs, free of charge.

Refreshments – including a wide variety of homemade cakes and bakes - were available from the

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Summer at the Beach is a fantastic opportunity for Waterbeach's artistic community to come together, showcase its talent and celebrate the place that inspires us.

Gideon Pain



Pop up Café and Sophie's

Café and people were able to

take their broken objects to

be fixed, free of charge, by a

panel of volunteer experts at

Local filmmaker Jack Jenkinson

along with more information - at

If you have an artistic talent you

would like to showcase at next

year's event, email Gideon Pain

at gideonpain@hotmail.co.uk.

www.summeratthebeach.co.uk

produced a short video about

the event, which is available -

the Repair Café.

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# Heritage Focus

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It's fantastic to see everyone together again, listening to our veterans sharing their stories of life at the Barracks.

Clive Hill



# 514 Squadron Reunion

On 17 June, this year's reunion brought together former members of 514 Squadron based at Waterbeach during the war and family members in a service of dedication and remembrance. Held in St John's Church, the service was conducted by Canon Brian MacDonald-Milne, former officiating chaplain at Waterbeach Barracks.

During the ceremony which over 100 people attended, a wreath was laid by Air Vice-Marshal Richard Knighton CB to remember all those who gave their lives from the Squadron.

The service was followed by an event at the Barracks, including a flypast by two Hurricanes and a

Spitfire that flew over, along the line of the main runway, to pay tribute to the brave airmen and crew who served there.

Following the flypast, people visited the memorial garden established by the Royal Engineers in 2009 and spent time meeting with veterans and families over a buffet lunch.

Clive Hill, organiser of the 514 Squadron reunion said: "It's fantastic to see everyone together again, listening to our veterans sharing their stories of life at the Barracks and remembering those they served with – keeping their memories alive by passing information down through the generations."

# Plane hunters recover fallen Waterbeach Lancaster in Flanders

In November last year, over 70 years after it crashed into a field in the Flemish village of Bunsbeek, a Lancaster bomber aircraft that flew out of Waterbeach in the Second World War was excavated. The remains of Lancaster NN775 were put on display in a temporary exhibition to commemorate the lives of those who died in the crash. It is thought the plane, which crashed on 5 March 1945, must have experienced some sort of catastrophic failure whilst heading home after completing its mission. Eyewitnesses saw it nosedive into the ground with such force that it disappeared into the boggy ground within 15 minutes of the crash. There were no survivors. The RAF recovered the cockpit in 1945 but the ground conditions made further recovery difficult at that time.

n CB joins Second World War veterans from 514 Squadron at the Reunio

Villagers in Bunsbeek remembered the incident and, around the 70th anniversary of the end of the War, it was decided that the plane should be excavated.



Two archaeology groups, Planehunters and BAHAAT, formed a project group and the excavation took place in November 2016. While the plane had been dramatically compressed by the impact of the crash – from 20 metres to 3.5m long – the plane parts were well preserved due to the wet soil. Recovered parts include landing gear, wheels and a propeller attached to an engine.

Benny Ceulauers, Chairman of Planehunters donated a framed tribute with names and pictures of the lost crew and artefacts from the excavation, which will be kept in the Waterbeach Military Heritage Museum.

Benny said: "It was a wonderful experience to do this big recovery. It is a hobby for us but we are so dedicated to the task of finding parts and searching for lost members of the crew. It is good that we can bring closure to the families of those who gave their lives to liberate Europe. When I donate the frames, like the one for the Waterbeach Military Heritage Museum, I feel like finally the plane has come home."

The seven airmen who lost their lives in the crash were all in their early 20s. They were:

Pilot: F/O Holman Kerr Navigator: F/Sgt Sidney Smith Air bomber: F/O Frank Clarke Wireless operator: F/Sgt Alan Olsen Flight engineer: Sgt William Marsden Mid upper gunner: Sgt Christopher Hogg Rear gunner: Sgt Herbert Thomas

Further information: www.planehunters.be and www.lancasterglabbeek. weebly.com

# Official reopening of Waterbeach Military Heritage Museum

On the same day as the 514 Squadron reunion, the Waterbeach Military Heritage Museum was officially re-opened by Air Vice-Marshal Richard Knighton CB and Colonel David Adamson (39 Engineer Reg – ret'd).

Waterbeach Museum was set up by the Royal Engineers in 1984 to commemorate the men and women who served at Waterbeach Station from its opening in 1941. It continued until the closure of the Barracks in 2013.

Colonel David Adamson, who was instrumental in the establishment of the original museum, explained how he made a radio appeal in the early 1980s for information and memorabilia about Waterbeach Barracks so that the record of the lives and accomplishments of the personnel who served there would not be lost:

"We had a wonderful response and many people came forward and donated artefacts, memorabilia and photos that formed the basis of the first museum collection. The museum was set up in the same building that it stands in today, having previously been used as a butcher's shop, a canteen and a telephone exchange - where wives could speak to their husbands serving in Northern Ireland for two minutes each week.

"The museum had to close when 39 Engineer Regiment was relocated to Kinloss in 2013. The MOD subsequently appointed Urban&Civic as master developers of the Barracks site and, thanks to the MOD and Urban&Civic, the museum has reopened and will continue to play an important role in telling the story of the Barracks heritage and its historic connection with the village."

As part of the ceremony, a memorial cabinet dedicated to Oliver Merrington, honorary curator of Waterbeach Military Heritage Museum, who died last year, was unveiled by his partner and family.

Adrian Wright, Chairman of the Museum Trustees said: "We would like to thank everyone who has supported the reopening of Waterbeach Military Heritage Museum and donated their time, expertise and resources. We are very proud of the collection and look forward to keeping the history of the Barracks and Airfield alive as it moves into its next phase of development."



# 66

**Col David Adamson** 

The Museum will continue to play an important role in telling the story of the Barracks heritage and its connection with the village.

**?**?



If you are interested in military heritage and the history of Waterbeach Barracks and Airfield, the Museum is looking for volunteers – including an honorary curator. The Museum is open 10am to 4pm on the first Wednesday and Sunday of each month from March to October and also by appointment.

To find out more about volunteering, arrange events or a special viewing of the museum, contact Adrian Wright on 01223 861846 or **www.** waterbeachmilitarymuseum@waterbeach.org

# Farmland Museum celebrates 20 years at Denny Abbey

**Denny Abbey and the Farmland Museum** offer a diverse range of collections and activities in a green and tranquil setting to both inform and entertain.

The Farmland Museum, founded in 1969 by the Delanoy family, reopened in the farm buildings adjacent to Denny Abbey in 1997 and is celebrating 20 years in Waterbeach with a fun-packed programme of activities and events for all ages.

Dr Jane Williamson, Chair of the Trustees of the Farmland Museum said: "We are delighted to be celebrating 20 years at Denny Abbey. The Museum is home to a regionally significant collection and provides a fascinating insight into rural life in Cambridgeshire, complementing the Abbey's history, with a focus on farming before big changes started to take place during the middle of the twentieth century.

"As the development of the Waterbeach Barracks and Airfield site becomes an increasing reality, the Museum and Abbey will have an important part to play in telling the residents the story of their new surroundings – especially if the historic causeway linking the two is re-established. We hope there will be opportunities to expand and grow to provide a very special local destination for existing and new residents in South Cambridgeshire and beyond."

If you are looking to escape the hustle and bustle of modern life and want to take a step back in time, Denny Abbey and the Farmland Museum offer a diverse range of collections and activities in a green and tranquil setting to both inform and entertain.

Season tickets are available that allow unlimited visits between April and October, and free access to events held during the winter months including February halfterm. People living in Waterbeach and the surrounding villages can enjoy further discounts and special offers by applying for a local resident season ticket.

#### At the Museum, you can:

- 1. Step into the 1940s to see how a typical farm labourer would have lived. Walk through the Walnut Tree Cottage and see the sparse but practical furniture and furnishings that would have adorned many Cambridgeshire homes after World War II when food, clothing and furniture were rationed.
- 2. Marvel at the horse-drawn machinery that would have been used to work the land and harvest the crops in the 18th and 19th century; the forerunner to today's modern farming equipment. Before that, tilling of the land would have been done largely by hand or using ox-drawn ploughs.
- Visit the display sheds for an insight into different skills and crafts practiced in rural Cambridgeshire including basket and hurdle making, the fenman's hut, the farrier's workshop, and the wheelwright and carpentry display.
- 4. Browse the goods available in a typical village shop in the 1930s to 1950s: see how many have stood the test of time and see if you can work out what some of the more obscure products were used for.
- 5. Explore the gardens to discover the best types of plants for dyeing fabrics and what a typical allotment would have looked like during World War I.



There is lots to see and do at the Museum and Abbey and, with a rolling programme of activities and events, no two visits are ever the same.

As well as interactive displays around the Museum and in the Abbey, there are a range of activities in the education centre, a children's playground and play shed – with books, toys and dressing up. Temporary exhibitions are displayed in the Cottage Gallery and you can find out about the fascinating lives of the Tudors in Divorced, Beheaded, Dissolved open until 29 October 2017.

Pop into the second-hand book shop to have a look through the diverse collection and, if there is anything you'd like, just leave your payment in the honesty box. Equally, if you are having a clear out and have books in good condition that you think someone else might enjoy, donations are greatly appreciated.

The Docky Box Tea Room provides a range of refreshments including homemade cakes and rolls, cream teas and locally sourced fruit juices. It is open weekends (11am to 4pm) and Wednesday and Thursday during school holidays (12.30 to 4.30pm).

# Volunteering opportunities at the Farmland Museum

Volunteers are very important to the success of the Farmland Museum and help is needed to support the ongoing care and maintenance of the grounds, facilities and collections.

The Museum and Abbey are open to the public from April to October, but the volunteers help out all year round and there are a wide variety of things that need doing – from general maintenance and gardening, to fundraising and marketing, and collection care and research – so there should be something that appeals to everyone.

The Museum team is also looking for stewards to show visitors around the Abbey and help keep the buildings clean and tidy and to provide additional support during events. There's also opportunities for living history re-enactors to dress up and give tours.

Glynis Arber, who has been volunteering at the Farmland Museum for over 17 years, said: "Volunteering here is great fun and there is a real camaraderie among the volunteers. The social element is one of the key things for me and we all down tools at the same time to catch up over a cuppa or lunch. Everyone is welcome and there's a great sense of achievement to see a project completed and visitors enjoying the vast array of things the Museum has to offer.

"It's also a great way to learn new skills and free training is provided. We've recently had courses in health and safety, first aid, conservation and storage – making sure artefacts are wrapped and stored appropriately to ensure preservation."

The team adopt a very flexible approach to volunteering, so whether you have a regular day, a few hours or specific interests, please get in touch. They also organise corporate volunteering and team building days for local businesses, including recent projects to repaint and refurbish the children's play shed.

For more information contact the Museum Manager on 01223 860988 or email info@farmlandmuseum.org.uk

Visit:

www.farmlandmuseum.org.uk Facebook and Twitter: @FarmlandMuseum

#### **Denny Abbey through the centuries**

# 1159-1170

The first monks at Denny

built a Benedictine church.

1170-1308

The Knights Templar used the church as a care home for elderly members of the order but they fell out of favour and in 1308 Edward III ordered the arrest of all Templars in England.

# 1327-1538

Mary de Valance, Countess of Pembroke set up an abbey for an order of nuns known as the Poor Clares and converted much of the former church into a private house.

## 1539

Henry VIII ordered the dissolution of the monasteries and Denny Abbey was sold.

# 1544-1947

The former abbey had already been largely converted into a house and with a few modifications was adapted to a farmhouse.

# 1947 >

Denny Abbey moved to the care of the Ministry of Works and in the late 1960s, with the last farm tenant gone, archaeologists started to uncover the building's earlier use and it was opened to the public. In 1997 the Farmland Museum opened in the farm buildings adjacent to the Abbey.

# Planning Update

# Cycling connections shift up a gear

Cycling is very much at the heart of the new development, and with major employment centres – such as the Research Park and Science Park - and public transport hubs just a short distance away, the plans put forward are looking to invest millions of pounds in cycling infrastructure.

We know for more people to cycle, safe, direct and effective cycle routes need to be put in place and connect where people live, work and access facilities and leisure activities. The team continue to discuss a range of on-site investment in cycle facilities and structures, as well as ensure strategic cycle connections to key locations locally and across the wider area. Further discussions to test out the strategic approach, and develop the next level of detail for the first phase of the development, are continuing with both the County Council cycling team, Sustrans, and the Cambridge and Waterbeach Cycling Campaigns.

As part of the broader discussions on investment in cycling infrastructure the Greater Cambridge Partnership is bringing forward Waterbeach as the first Cambridge Greenways project to be consulted on. The project seeks to establish a high quality walking, cycling and equestrian network - using new and existing routes - that will connect surrounding villages to the City making 'green' commuting more attractive.

Greenways are long-distance, attractive corridors - usually, off-road, away from traffic - that will help increase levels of cycling and walking and provide health benefits and active opportunities for as many people as possible, including horse riders and those with disabilities. Greenways can also be important wildlife corridors as well as places people can enjoy for commuting or leisure. The Waterbeach Greenway will go from the parishes of Milton and Waterbeach and connect with existing links into Chesterton ward in the City. It is one of 12 routes which will in time be developed across the local area.

Interactive events were held in Waterbeach in July, with the local community invited to comment on current cycling provision, where and how they currently travel, issues they face, and thoughts on some initial options – along the river, along the railway line and along the A10.

The Greenways team is now working with Urban&Civic to look at the range of early cycle connections that can be delivered, and ensuring coherent approaches to maximise the benefits of private and public investment to both the new development and existing communities along the potential routes and through Waterbeach village. Tim Leathes, Development Director for Urban&Civic, said: "It is clear that by investing in safe, green cycle routes we can support existing cyclists to get about safely and unlock a huge pent-up demand. Cycling, whether for commuting or leisure, offers huge opportunities to get to jobs and amenities in the North of the City, to connect to rail stations and park and ride services, and onto wider cycle networks across the area. That will only happen with co-ordinated investment in connecting routes and providing supporting facilities. Working with the Greenways team, local cycle groups and the County Council, we feel we can bring forward early and significant investment to make a real difference.

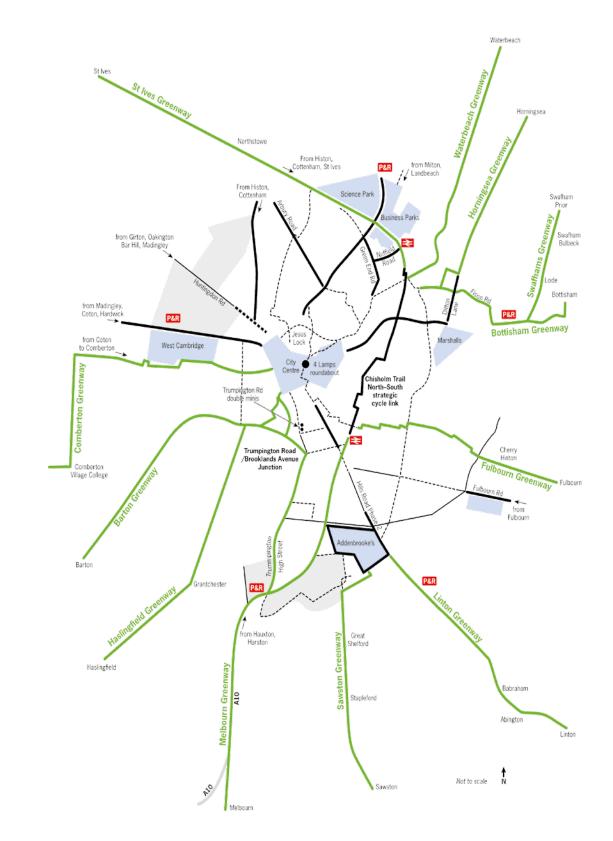
"We know cycling is not for everyone, but by getting more people out of cars, we can ensure better health outcomes for more people and more capacity on the roads for those who need to use their car. We need to invest in options other than the car which as many people as possible feel able to use. Greenways play a key role in that, alongside other cycle, bus, rail and pedestrian options."

Chair of the Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive Board Cllr Francis Burkitt, said: "The important next step is to discuss the idea with local communities and harness their valuable local knowledge so that we can produce attractive and suitable routes for everyone to enjoy. Nothing is set in stone and we really value the views of those who take the time to talk to us. We want to create something that our residents will be pleased with, proud of and use."

If you were unable to attend the July events but would like more information and would like to comment on the initial options, visit the project website:

www.greatercambridge. org.uk/greenways

## Greenways Plan

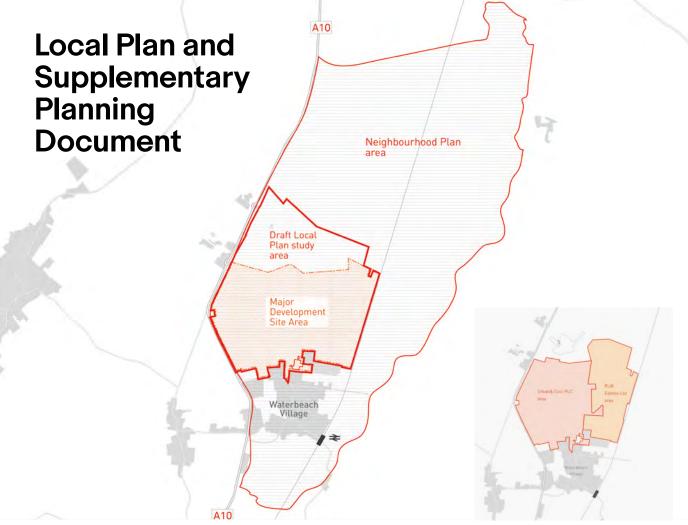


The 12 Greenways

- City Deal bus (and cycle) corridor
- ----- Existing link
- Major employment site
- Housing growth site

# Update on Waterbeach Barracks Planning Application





With the formal consultation period now finished on the Application for the former Barracks and Airfield area, Urban&Civic is in discussion with South Cambridgeshire District Council, the County Council and other consultees to work through the feedback and see what additional information or actions are needed for the application to progress.

The findings of the A10 Corridor Study, which is due to report in the next few months will be a key part of future strategic transport investment in the area and will help Urban&Civic refine the transport proposals within the application. The team is also looking at additional information needed to respond to questions raised in the consultation on the character of the development and some detailed technical questions.

Tim Leathes, the Development Director for the development, said: "Our team has been following up with South Cambridgeshire and the County Council, key agencies, partners and statutory bodies to respond to queries raised in the consultation and to update information that needs to respond to the evolving context. Clearly there are a lot of moving parts both locally and nationally at the moment affecting transport, economics and the political landscape. "This is not unusual as a backdrop for these strategic sites, and in pursuing large applications we always anticipate additional information being provided over the course of the application process, and indeed on an ongoing basis as the planning and development process continues.

"The team is collating additional technical information for submission and getting into more detailed discussions to enable us to move the application forward in good time and start delivering the homes, facilities and infrastructure the area needs." South Cambridgeshire District Council has appointed Arup to produce a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to inform decision making for the new town on land north of Waterbeach village. This includes the former Barracks and Airfield site (promoted by Urban&Civic) and the land to the east (promoted by RLW), as allocated in the Draft Local Plan.

The SPD will build on the joint work already undertaken by Urban&Civic and RLW to define the vision and framework of the site across the two land interests and provide guidance on the way the infrastructure needed for the development would be delivered if it moves forward. At the end of July a stakeholder community workshop, including representatives of the local community, was held to enable them to feed into the SPD process. Waterbeach Parish Council has employed a planning consultant to contribute to the technical aspects of the work as it progresses.

The draft SPD is expected to be ready for consideration by the Council's committee in December 2017 (Planning Portfolio Holder's meeting) prior to formal consultation and adoption by the Council once the Local Plan has been adopted.

The Local Plan examination has now closed. The next stage of the process will likely involve consultation on the Council's modifications to the Local Plan if the Inspectors consider that such modifications are necessary to make the plan sound. For additional information on the local planning process, please visit the South Cambridgeshire website at:

scambs.gov.uk/Environment/ Planning or contact the team on: Email: planning@scambs.gov.uk Tel: 03450 455 215

You can also speak to your local councilors on the contacts below:

South Cambridgeshire District Council Ingrid Tregoing: cllr.tregoing@scambs.gov.uk 0771-5908694

Peter Johnson: cllr.johnson@scambs.gov.uk 01223-560918

Cambridgeshire County Council Anna Bradnam: anna.bradnam@cambridgeshire. gov.uk 01223 862364

Or speak to your local parish councillors.

If you would like to meet up with the team, discuss any ideas or issues about the development, have a tour of the site or look at the community facilities, then please get in touch with us:

#### **Rebecca Britton**

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