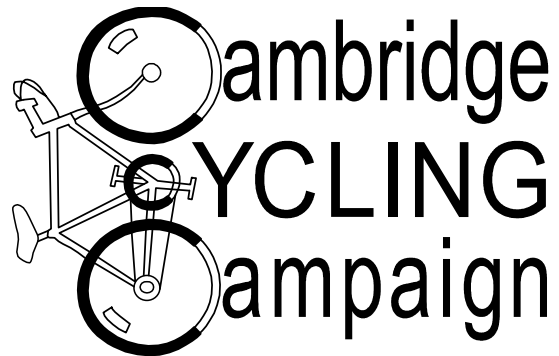


September 12, 2006

Our ref: C 06 025
Your ref:

Complaints Administrator
South Cambridgeshire District Council
South Cambridgeshire Hall
Cambourne Business Park
Cambourne
Cambridgeshire
CB3 6EA

Cc: Cllr Shona Johnstone,
Patrick Joyce – County Council Walking &
Cycling Officer



Cambridge Cycling Campaign

P.O. Box 204, Cambridge CB4 3FN
01223 690718 (phone & fax)
contact@camcycle.org.uk
www.camcycle.org.uk

Dear Chief Executive,

Access within Cambridge to South Cambs planning applications

By way of introduction, Cambridge Cycling Campaign is a local voluntary organisation with almost 800 members. We work closely with local government and others to improve conditions for cyclists in Cambridge and the immediate surrounding area, one which has high levels of cycling both within the city and more widely in Cambridgeshire.

We write to register our dissatisfaction at the removal of the ability for planning applications under consideration by South Cambs District Council to be viewed at a Cambridge-based office.

Many of the largest and most important new developments in Cambridgeshire, e.g. Northstowe, Arbury Park, the Monsanto site, etc., are close to Cambridge, or will have transport and other effects on the City.

It is unacceptable that information on such developments, particularly those in areas like Arbury Park which would normally be considered areas that are "part of Cambridge" - even if technically in South Cambs, are relatively inaccessible to most residents of Cambridge.

Residents of King's Hedges, for instance, who live next to Arbury Park, should not have to put in the position of travelling 10 miles out to Cambourne, an area poorly served by public transport and almost completely inaccessible by bicycle, to view an application which is right on their doorstep, or to have to go through the unfamiliar process of attempting to determine the contacts for a Parish Council in the local area, who may then be uncontactable electronically or at acceptable hours of the day or at a similarly inconvenient location.

We write to ask that, for relatively large developments at least (including any development of new housing above 100 dwellings), that an additional set of plans and full details of the application be made available at a Cambridge-based office, whether at the offices of the City

Council (the Guildhall or the St Andrew's Street office), the County Council (at Shire Hall) or elsewhere in the City.

Whilst we do appreciate the current funding difficulties being experienced by the Council, in the longer term it will be cheaper and more democratically appropriate and effective for the Council to ensure that planning applications can face adequate scrutiny, rather than problems be discovered at too late a stage (e.g. Arbury Park) and that expensive remedial works then become necessary to correct such problems. We feel it ought not to be a burden on developers simply to provide one additional copy of their plans upon submission, and that your application forms which require (for instance) 6 copies could be incremented by one.

If you are unable to meet this request, as a very minimum standard we would ask that copies of any application be made available upon request within 3 working days at a specified Cambridge office.

Please would you let us know whether the above will be possible. If not, we may wish to escalate this matter.

Lastly, please also accept this letter as a formal request that we wish to be consulted on all plans for new housing above 100 dwellings within 10 miles of the edge of Cambridge. Our requests along these lines to <Jane.Gifford@scambs.gov.uk> of 24th July 2006 and 27th August 2006 seem to have gone unanswered. Please would you kindly acknowledge this second request.

We look forward to hearing from you on the above two requests and very much hope you will reconsider your existing arrangements.

Yours sincerely,
on behalf of Cambridge Cycling Campaign,

Martin Lucas-Smith
Co-ordinator