

Appendix 1

Villagers of Barton and Grantchester - Petition to reduce speed on the A603

The spokesperson Patrick De Backer clerk to Barton Parish Council presented the petition. In terms of:

- Link 19 he indicated that they were recommending a 40mhp limit along the stretch of road due to the multiple hazards including the entrance to a rifle range, Haggis Farm and St Marks cemetery.
- Link 18 he believed the New road junction with the B1046 was an accident waiting to happen and was concerned regarding parents and cyclists try to cross the road to get to a primary school and playgroup. There was also an exit from Roan Hill serving a residential housing area where it was difficult to join the road due to the speed of traffic.
- Link 17 he argued there was every reason to decrease the limit in the village due to poor visibility and bends and hazards involving much used junctions in the High Sreet and Haslingfield Road and important entrances to public amenities such as a garage and pub with no crossing points / refuges provided .
- Link 16 and 15 the speed limit should be reduced to allow residents to leave their driveways on both sides safely.

In summing up the parish's view was that the 10 mph requested reductions in the speed limits would prevent death and serious injury reminding cabinet that their views had previously been supported by the AJC meeting in January including many county councillors (some of whom were members of the previous Cabinet).

Letter from Barton Parish Council key points

The letter highlighted that in their opinion:

Link 18 and 19 a badly designed junction of the 603 and B1046 and enclosed a photograph of children and parents attempting to cross the road at Roman Hill to the B10469 to illustrate their point.

Link 17 this included the junction with the High Street, the White Horse pub and the busy (wallis's garage. The lay-by had a food stall and was used by lorries parked at night. The stretch also included the junction with Haslingfield Road.

Link 16 – Haslingfield to the Lords Bridge end of the village. This was a wide stretch of road with fast moving traffic. For much of its length there were houses on both sides of the road. Residents had campaigned for a long time to have the (national) speed limit reduced.

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- The County Councillor for Hardwick (which included Barton and Granchester) supported the reduced speed limit suggested at links 18 and 19 making reference to the photograph provided by the chairman of Barton Parish Council which highlighted that a small traffic island in the middle of the A 603 was surrounded by barriers which made it difficult to access when escorting a number of children across the road. She

highlighted the dangers of the speed of traffic coming off the M11 who often exceed the 60 mph current speed limit and the added danger of drivers who were unaware of some of the hazards. The support for the reduction in the speed limit was to reduce the risk of future deaths and injuries and to avoid the road becoming an accident hotspot. In terms of the AJC supporting localism in their recommendations, she asked that Cabinet should listen to the views of the local population. Officers made the point that the approach to Barton was an area of low accidents and the crossing routes compared favourably to other crossings in the county. In terms of the alternative speed limits being suggested from the AJC meeting, the Cabinet portfolio holder indicated that he had driven several of the routes the day before to ascertain for himself the issues raised including the A603.

- One of the local members for Sawston, Councillor Orgee reiterated his support for the revised AJC speed limit proposals for the A1307, highlighting in his view the inconsistency of the County Council's officers proposals which would in effect lower one stretch to 50mph while leaving unchanged a section on link 5 at 70mph both stretches of which had recorded almost identical mean speeds. He supported extending the proposed 50 mph limit over the brow of the hill to just past Wandlebury entrance / exit and imposing a 50 mph limit at the Babraham crossroads. He also highlighted the apparent inconsistencies with the County Council policy of encouraging more cycling and upgrading the footway / cycleway from Whittlesford to Sawston for more students to cycle between Whittlesford and Sawston Village college and yet proposing to keep the 70mph stretch of the A1301 at a point where there was a cycle crossing point and where mean speeds were lower than 50mph. In relation to the different speeds proposed along different sections of the A1301 originally put before the AJC by officers, he supported the revised recommendation for a 40mph speed limit for link 3 and a small extensions southwards, and a 50mph limit for the remainder of the A1301 southwards to the county boundary. He strongly supported a 50mph speed limit at the section of the road covering the Mill Lane Junction (link 5) as he believed it met all policy requirements to change it to 50mph.
- The County Councillor for Duxford Spoke supporting the AJC proposal to reduce the speed at link 5 on the A1307 to 50mph having consulted local residents and Babraham Parish Council. He highlighted a problem exiting from Babraham in relation to restricted sight lines resulting in the difficulty of seeing traffic from the Haverhill side as a result of a sharp dip in the road. This was likely to be exacerbated in the future as more development in Babraham increased the potential accident risk as more cars sought to use the exit while from the Haverhill side the Haverhill Vision for further expansion was likely to result in more traffic using the section of the road. In terms of the AJC proposal to reduce the speed limit at link 5 for the dual carriageway section covering Mill Lane junction he highlighted that people living in Sawston tended not to use the bypass but that his own consultation undertaken with residents off the villages around Sawston took the view that the speed limit should remain unchanged in line with the officer recommendations. While the road carried a 70 mph limit it was extremely straight for a mile long section and had excellent sight lines with the accident rate being very low.

In addition comments from the local member for Gamlingay were read out as he was unable to attend supporting the extension of the reduced speed limit to include the Larkin Road Junction. While he was sympathetic to the calls of Longstowe Parish Council and other parishes for further reductions and sorry that they were not included, he was encouraged by the emphasis the officers had placed on "self help" options as detailed in the

Speed Limit Policy. He however raised the issue which concerned parishes who had spoken to him regarding being given some estimate of the likely costs involved. In relation to this latter point the officers were in the process of providing information to parishes in the form of leaflets etc in order that they consider their fund options.

CABINET RESPONSE TO: MEMBER LED REVIEW – COUNTY FARMS ESTATE**Recommendation 1: Retain the Estate**

Members believe that the Estate is a valuable strategic asset that the Council should make a long term commitment to retain.

Agreed response

Cabinet agrees with this recommendation and notes that the Council has signalled its commitment to the County Farms Estate by major investments through the Better Use of Property Assets (BUPA) programme and since 1988 regular reviews of policies, objectives and Farm Management Plans. The latter have given both the Council and its tenants a long term strategic framework to operate and develop viable businesses and has generated excellent financial and non financial returns.

Internal Rate of Return calculations produced by Bidwells show returns of 4.95% and 6.74% for the period 2010 to 2050 which are comparable with privately held estates.

In addition land on the Estate may form part of the Northstowe development, be used for the proposed Recycling Centre at Trumpington and also a rowing lake at Waterbeach.

Furthermore the Estate provides opportunities for people to start farming businesses supporting 64 new entrants since 1998 as well as encouraging existing tenants to diversify their income streams and become more innovative.

Many new woods and permissive paths have been created on the Estate making the County a better place to live in. The latest community woodland planted at Oakington has well received new public access links.

Recommendation 2 : Financial returns must be the top priority during the current economic situation

The County Farms Estate (CFE) has several social, economic and environmental objectives. These are not mutually exclusive as land can often meet several objectives at once. Nonetheless, given the financial difficulties facing the Council, Members believe that the top priority at the moment should be to generate financial returns to supply funds for mainstream services.

Agreed response

Cabinet agree the objectives are not mutually exclusive and that the financial contribution made by the Estate to the Council is most important whilst also recognising the important non financial benefits such as providing opportunities for local communities to enjoy the countryside. Capital receipts have averaged £3m pa for the last decade while rents have increased by approximately £400,000 in the last 3 years and further rental increases are expected as farming profitability improves as a result of global demand for food.

Recommendation 3: Encourage Purchase of Land

The current Estate policies do not explicitly allow or encourage officers to purchase land where this is deemed advantageous, and there is little evidence of land purchases in recent years. Members believe that CFE policy should be amended so that officers actively seek sites for purchase, to partially mitigate the reduction in the Estate. This will help strengthen the Estate's role as a long term strategic asset.

Agreed response

The Better Use of Property Assets (BUPA) project currently provides funding for capital investment on the Estate including land purchases where a sound business case can be made.

In the current economic climate a good business case would be required to justify land purchases. Land might be bought where there is marriage value e.g. to unlock areas with potentially greater value in the long term or to expand existing holdings. Several blocks of land have been considered for purchase in recent years.

However an active campaign by the Council to purchase land could be counter productive as prospective vendors are likely to set enhanced prices.

Local agents currently provide officers with details of land for sale but supply has for several years been limited and prices as a result too high to justify acquisition based on purely agricultural returns.

Officers will continue to monitor the market for sites where a suitable business case can be made to justify a purchase.

Recommendation 4: Ensure proceeds from the Estate continue to support Council services

The Pensions Committee has given some consideration to the possibilities of acquiring some of the CFE. As stated in recommendation 1, Members believe that the Council should retain the Estate as a strategic asset and recommend that Cabinet should ensure that proceeds from the Estate continue to support Council services.

Agreed Response

Cabinet notes the Scrutiny Committee's recommendation. The Pensions Committee's investigations into its overarching investment strategy are ongoing and no conclusions have been reached. If that strategy included direct investment in property incorporating all or part of the County Farms Estate, detailed Member discussion would be required together with the agreement of both the Pension Committee and Cabinet, before any transfer took place.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON AGENDA ITEM 10 CAMBRIDGESHIRE SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN AND CAMBS PRELIMINARY FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT FROM ENTERPRISE, GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 23RD MAY 2011

Surface Water Management Plans and preliminary Flood Risk Assessment

Recommendations to Cabinet

- 1) The Committee believes that water management is a serious, strategic issue that requires long term planning and funding commitments from all statutory bodies and third parties. Sources of funding need to be identified as a priority, for example through:
 - Responsible management of developers through bonds and developer contributions through the Community Infrastructure Levy
 - Tax Increment Financing
 - Match funding from Government
- 2) Officers should review the validity of the top 10 'wetspots' as there are concerns about the data sources used.
- 3) Cabinet should review the capacity of the County to perform its statutory role as a planning consultee as there are concerns about lack of capacity. In particular, this resource is required in order to enable the County Council to provide comments regarding sustainable development requirements (e.g. so that water is recycled effectively).
- 4) Cabinet should task the responsible partnership to develop a programme showing timescales for evidence gathering, action planning, funding allocation, etc, in order to inform plans being developed by key stakeholders (e.g. Anglian Water)
- 5) The Committee highlighted that there remain concerns about communication and partnership working with some bodies. E.g. Anglian Water, and would like to highlight this for Cabinets' attention