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Planning Services

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NECAAP, Planning Policy Team
South Cambridgeshire Hall
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Pauline [redacted]

Dear Councillors

North East Cambridge Area Action Plan

I am very concerned about your vision for North East Cambridge on the following grounds:

Need for the development:

Is this the right time to be planning such a large development of very high-density housing? We are in an economic crisis when Covid-19 has meant a change to working practices.

It would be better to build in existing villages all around Cambridge, not just in the north east. Is there really a need for so many homes in this area? I question the need for over 275,000 square metres of new business space when office blocks up and down the country are standing empty and could be converted to residential accommodation.

Connected and integrated:

This relies on people being able to walk or cycle to work. It presupposes that everyone living there will be young and active and remain that way. Communities are a mixture of all ages and abilities, but this development does not appear to cater for all of them.

Building heights and density:

Such high density (more than London or Paris) is not appropriate for this area. One- and two-bedroom dwellings in 13 storey blocks could lead to social isolation and lack of community feeling. It doesn't cater for growing families. Are they expected to move out when children reach secondary school age?

Open places:

Whatever open spaces are planned they cannot compensate for the loss of wide open Green Belt where the new WWTP is expected to be sited. Milton Country Park is not sufficiently big or open to accommodate so many people and it is already very well used.

Biodiversity:

The negative impact on flora and fauna caused by the construction process cannot be undone. The site chosen for the relocation of WWTP to enable this development will suffer immeasurably and catastrophically.

Discouraging car use:

Not everyone is able to walk or cycle to work. As people age or their families grow they will become reliant on cars. The development does not take this into consideration.

Additional points to consider:

Where are the secondary schools? Surely there won't just be primary school age children living there.

I understand that to register for this consultation my name will be published with my comment, but that, in line with your privacy statement, my contact details and other personal information will not.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted signature]

Your name

[redacted name]