

# sewage works leaves bad smell

**THE** whole idea really is quite bonkers.

Moving a sewage works that Anglian Water has advised us does not have to be moved, from an operational perspective, and where the current site is large enough to build a new, less odorous and carbon-neutral treatment plant.

The cost of decontaminating this site will be high, the time lengthy and unlikely to be without some issue. To maximise profit, this is to be counterbalanced by building high density offices and housing, including 13-storey high rises, we are told. What will they call this new development I wonder, Milton-on-Sewer?

Cambridge certainly needs some new low cost housing but surely we should offer our residents better than this.

Furthermore, how will this complement a city with some of the best and historic architecture in the country? We can do better, surely. Is this development what the people of Cambridge really want or need?

The City and South Cambs District Councils will be hard pressed to prove it, as they will need to do to fulfil the requirements of the HIF grant.

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed the world, in the way we work, perhaps forever. Furthermore,

the uncertainty Brexit has created and the strained relationship with China creates a perfect storm of unpredictability for economic growth. The country is in the grip of a recession that could last for several years. Until the future is clearer, should this consultation even be taking place? Surely, at the very least, it should be put on hold until the path ahead is visible.

All the data and modelling to predict the economic growth of Cambridge, office space and housing need, was undertaken before the pandemic and the current economic crisis. In the future it is possible, if not probable, that more people will be working from home. Will we really need more office space when so much currently stands empty or underused? Fundamental housing design of the future may need to change, for example, to incorporate a realistic ergonomic workstation and separate space, moving away from the current trends of open space living design. The council needs to call a halt to this consultation now, wait a while and then reassess... and do much better for the people of Cambridge.

The traffic modelling for this nightmare "vision" is very dubious. It is assumed most people will walk or cycle. When will these

won't survive and is there really going to be the money to provide social services when cuts have already been made to the social care budget? The effect of this expansion could be devastating for the city. Look to Ireland, where the Celtic Tiger over expanded and suddenly went into recession, sharp rises of ghost developments of hundreds of empty new houses, ultimately requiring the building your way out of a recession is only viable if there is demand and this is the crux of the matter, there simply won't be the demand for the foreseeable future.

I am also concerned about the efficacy of this "consultation", when U + IPIC Developers, were actually appointed as the contractors to build the new sewage works, back in July 2018. The whole consultation frankly leaves a bad smell and is flawed. Our councillors need to stop and rethink this whole, money-driven scheme.

**Laurie Woolfenden**

reserves the right to edit material. Send your pictures in JPEG format marked "your View" to pictures@cambridge-news.co.uk. Please include name, address and daytime telephone number, where you took the photo possible, a picture of yourself. We reserve the right to reuse pictures at our discretion.

Please enclose your full address and daytime telephone number. Keep your letter to no more than 200 words. The News

## OUR POLICY

**PHOTO OF THE DAY**

middle-aged men in lycra realise that life isn't always that simple. For approximately 70 per cent of us, cycling to work can be an option. Many residents will work away from the area, life moves on, jobs change, families grow.

We are advised that the average daily commute is 40 minutes. It is just not viable for time-restricted working parents with young children of different ages, needing to be delivered to different schools, the elderly and those with disabilities. The impact of even an extra 5,000 cars on Milton Road (approximately half a car per house) and cars of those working on the site, will be considerable and air pollution will be increased substantially. With allowable parking space of half a car per home, many cars will be parked in the narrow streets. Have the

developers allowed for this when they tell us that emergency vehicles, delivery lorries and dustcarts will be able to traverse them?

It is almost beyond belief that in order to build on this brownfield site, we need to build a new sewage works, if these plans go ahead. Even building Mayor of Cambridge agrees, we need our green spaces and building on green belt is against government policy.

The inclusion of Honey Hill as one of the potential three site options, treating the whole Wicken Fen 'vision', is frankly shameful and unforgivable.

It is also of note that there are no current plans to build a new secondary school and how will our roads and hospitals cope in the short term? It will be the tax payer who is left to pick up the deficit when ill thought out schemes go over budget.

The 'Vision's' suggestion that the voluntary sector can fill in the gaps, is quite frankly, naive. Many charities are struggling in the current economic crisis, many

at marshals  
mask-wearing  
at we are a safe shop to browse.  
Patricia Ferraby

has this not been done  
oner? If you're not wearing a  
ask then you shouldn't be  
owed in.

**Gintare Armonaite-Charette**

Someone should where a mask  
if they can't then get someone  
to do their shopping. We all  
to do our bit.

**Cheryl Carter**

