

Babraham Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday 9th May, 2024 at 19.30, in Babraham School Hall

Agenda

Apologies for Absence

**24APM/
01**

Sandra Carroll- Village Hall
Victoria Penty- Babraham School
Hannah Thomas- Forest Garden
Kathryn Waite- St Peters Church

**24APM/
02**

Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council
BPC Chair's report 2024

Welcome again to everyone and thank you for your time in coming here today. It is great to see so many of you here. My report will highlight the issues we have and are facing as a village and details of these will be provided by the individuals responsible in subsequent reports.

To begin with, I should like to thank all my fellow councillors and our clerk for their kindness in giving their time in attending meetings and training for their roles – most of which is voluntary.

As you know, Babraham is a beautiful and exceptionally unusual village with a rich agricultural and scientific heritage. We all have a common aim in trying to preserve this.

Although small – 260 residents – as a village we face very large issues and I shall cover some of these briefly now.

Council tax – one of the primary roles of the PC is to set the bar for the CT. A couple of years ago this was inadvertently raised (before my time) due to the change in our boundary which reduced the number of houses. This meant that a slight increase was caused. Action :I am pleased to report that we have now reduced that back to the original level and this year maintained that level i.e. no increase.

Which brings me to jump straight into the glaring issue of potholes. Whilst this is a nationwide issue the fact that in many cases these are now craters and of extreme danger has not gone unnoticed. As a PC we have repeatedly reported our potholes both within and approaching the village and shall continue to do so. We are pleased to see that the state of the road to Stapleford has been repaired on the verges which had become deeply dangerous. We thank you for reporting pot-holes so on the `SCDC web-site as well. They have caused unexpected expense to many of us – myself included- and we urge the DC to address this issue urgently. Action: However, I should add that I was almost ecstatic last week when I saw that one of the largest holes had finally been filled.

Babraham is a magnet for dog walkers and we are delighted to provide that facility which provides such a tranquil place for all walkers in this busy world. However, although we provide dog litter bins and have a contractor who is supposed to empty these regularly, you may have noticed that this is not working well. Last year, overflow especially along the Church walk had been pretty revolting. Action: Delighted to report this has been rectified.

Our biggest issue to face is of course the proposed development by Cheveley Park Farms up towards the A11 and behind the current High Street of 3,500 new homes plus a large motorway style bus route cutting across the countryside to enter the Addenbrooke's campus. This proposal is known as CSET (Cambridge South East Transport) and is widely opposed in the village for obvious reasons. An alternative scheme proposed by the campaign Better Busways, proposes a bus lane from the A11 (where a new P and R is to be sited) up to Addenbrooke's along the A1307 and we are favourable towards this as an option. There is also a new proposal – Grange Farm – which proposes a new town adjacent to the FourWentWays roundabout.

Our best option, however, is within our Neighbourhood Plan which should be taken into account by central planners and will be discussed later. It seeks to provide minimal new housing quota by refurbishment of existing or provision of higher density apartments (all eco-friendly) on The Close and a successful exhibition of this to the public was provided last year at The George. Action: The plan has all come together now, it sets out clear objectives such as where is development OK and where is not suitable, it also shows protected areas. The Plan is now ready to be presented to the Parish Council. There will then be a public consultation, revisions can then be made if required and then handed over and submitted.

There is a lot to be looked at, the document is substantial and there will probably be a lot of questions and details to go over so it was suggested that an extra meeting with the PC is arranged to look at this Plan. A date to be agreed on but would be before the next PC normal meeting.

The Forest Garden project has been ongoing and is approaching its final year. It has been ably project managed by Hannah and despite significant issues due once again to extreme weather – you will have seen that the majority of carefully chosen plant species are really beginning to take off. It should be a spectacular asset to the community in years to come.

Action: A steering group has been created comprising HG, DD, EA and CC to discuss with the PC future Governance and development of the Forest Garden.

Hannah Thomas gave a very interesting report on the history of the Forest Garden, how it developed and what would be happening in the future. Some questions were asked at the end: e.g. Why weren't bigger plants bought? Why can't dogs go in there? Can signs be put up? How much longer is funding needed? The garden should be quite low maintenance once planting is finished, mainly watering and weed control where needed. HT will report later

6. Bonfires -Should you decide to have a bonfire, kindly note these recommendations: do not burn any oily rags, rubber, plastics, damp garden waste or other materials which would inevitably create heavy smoke or toxic fumes

do not burn a bonfire when your neighbours have washing drying, or are out enjoying their gardens or have windows wide open
do not light bonfires one hour before dusk, or leave them burning overnight. Choose the time of day and weather conditions that will cause the least inconvenience to neighbours
do not leave your fire to smoulder for long periods

Parking outside Babraham School. Clerk had contacted the Police re the parking problems outside the school, it was reported that Police had attended a couple of times recently, however they are stretched for time and numbers so may not happen that often. Actions: The weeds have been trimmed to make it easier for children to walk along the paths. Brian Milnes said that the new Civil Parking Enforcement plan would be starting soon, as soon as this starts they will look at hotspots. Warnings will be given first, then penalties served with fines between £70 and £100

8. Gritting Scheme: It was agreed to join this scheme, the main areas to be gritted were near the Alms-houses and Brick Row.

Our relationship with the BRC remains close and cordial. Despite ongoing development of its site, the BRC always seeks and is a good neighbour and is fully-involved in the Neighbourhood Plan and the FG.

I should now like to ask the Clerk to present the Financial Report for the council.

Financial Report

**24APM/
03**

Two years ago, we reduced the Precept from £16,144 to £14,000. This was not raised for the current year, although Council tax has increased, Babrahams money has remained the same.

We have received the first instalment of money from the Sec 106 agreement from the new houses built in Babraham Rd, Sawston. This consists of money for the Community Hall and Public art, total of £92,000.

We also received £20,000 to recompense us for the money spent of traffic calming, as we now get a lot more traffic through the village due to the new developments.

The reserves that we hold are:

Sec 106/ Village Hall	£147,094.79
Public Art	£ 18,207.55
Playground	£25,000.00
Forest Garden	£1778.00
Total Reserved	£192,080.34

Our expenditure has stayed fairly steady compared with previous years, the extra sum is mainly due to solicitors and legal fees associated with the Village Hall, however this money does come from the amount that is reserved from Sec 106 money.

The money we have as of 3rd May 2024 is a total of £238,264 including reserves of £193,325

**24APM/04 Report from Cambridgeshire County Councillor Brian Milnes
Movements in political alignments in the last year**

Three years ago, on election, the Conservative party lost control of the Council when a Joint Administration of Lib Dems, Labour and Independents was formed. This last year a further attrition of Conservative numbers has occurred, with defections to the LibDems and Independents as well as by-election losses, meaning the LibDems are now the single largest party leading that Joint Administration.

Finances - Local Government Funding

Over the past year residents have continued to query why we have difficulty with basic services such as pothole filling. We appreciate the concern and are making huge efforts to improve efficiency of spending and prioritise necessary repairs, with funding increasingly constrained.

In 2023/24 local authority spending in England is £118bn. Of this £74 bn is spent on education, adult social care and children's social care, referred to as 'statutory services'.

Over the last 14 years local councils have seen a 50% fall in their spending powers and from 2010-2022 central government grant has been cut by 40% in real terms while seeing an increase in Council tax of 30%. Funding for all services is 10% lower than it was in 2010; and for services such as potholes, roads, transport, Libraries, leisure centres etc the figure is a cut of 43%.

As the demand for statutory services, which Councils must never forgo, rises, the amount of cash left for everything else decreases.

The Cambridgeshire County Council has managed to develop and approve a balanced budget for the year. But it needs stating that addressing all concerns will be increasingly difficult, especially when awaiting the Fair Funding review.

"Case for Cambridge" 2050

A Ministerial Statement from Michael Gove about his continued plans for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire arrived at the end of March. This continues his narrative for a doubling or tripling of housing numbers, despite the obvious constraints, especially water scarcity.

It confirms the establishment of a decision-making Growth Company, leading to a Development Corporation, with no elected representation on it.

It appears Council Leaders, the Mayor and an unclear number of others will be on an Advisory Council feeding into the Growth Company Board. The Growth Company will be a subsidiary of the Government's own housing body, Homes England - a model that has not existed so far and does reinforce the impression left is that this is all about houses.

There is still no indication at all about where all these new houses (which amount to the equivalent of 3 cities of Cambridge) will go and this is causing concern especially in those villages around the City.

South Cambs District Council 50th anniversary celebrations

South Cambs marked the 50th anniversary of the creation of district councils with a civic ceremony in March preceded by the planting of a tree by Deputy Lieutenant for Cambridgeshire Jeremy Newsum. It was an opportunity to pay thanks to the dedication and commitment of all those who have served on and worked for the council over the years as well as the continued support of our residents and stakeholders.

State of the District Review

A “State of the District” Review was published in January 2024 with lots of really interesting information and data about our area

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/0tlljrvr/state-of-the-district-south-cambridgeshire.pdf>

Report from South Cambridgeshire District Councillor Peter McDonald

24APM/
05

Key Changes 2024/2025

Sixth year of New Administration in the Council from May 2018.

45 Councillors instead of 57. Lower cost to residents.

More work for us !

Homes for Ukraine –over 700 homes found for Ukrainian guests
£600k for CoL support including warm hubs, slow cookers and The Mobile Food Hb on Thursdays

Having doubled the number of new Council homes built from 35 in 2019/20 to 75 in 2024/25

£500k for homelessness

£1m to enhance energy efficiency in council 5,600 homes

During the next two years, more than £2 million has been allocated to continue to upgrade existing housing stock, as part of continuing carbon reduction efforts.

£150k for zero carbon projects egsolar panels on the community Centre

Financials

2024/25

SCDC takes c.£170 of the £1,500 of Band D Council Tax.

Council Tax Increased this year by 3.5% or £5 to £171. Correcting a deficit of £500k in 2019/20

Councillor expenses 5% in line with staff

SCDC still looking to generate 25% of income from investments (to protect Council & residents)

County C Tax Increased by £76 or 4.99%.

5 yr Business Plan

South Cambs receives no Government grant.

Savings planned of £1.5m next few years.

Work to bring forward community buildings at Northstowe.

Continued efforts to reduce fly-tipping at hotspots through cameras, and promptly investigating reports of rubbish being dumped.

A new Mobile Warden scheme, to help keep older people living independently in their homes for longer, for the years ahead

Some of the proposed business support targets include: The promotion of local businesses, as well tailored support and resources and identifying funding opportunities.

Supporting start-ups and small businesses to grow –such as providing space for them at the Council’s Cambourne office.

Continuing to help establish and support local markets across South Cambridgeshire.

My Priorities

1. Monitor & influence planning projects.

Influence the local plan process/call for sites.
 Monitor the 5 year housing land supply.
 Work with villages on Wellcome Genome Campus development & housing covenants.
 Gonville& Caius 800 houses were not included in call for sites.
 Maarnford Close Duxford will be developed.
 Whittlesford Depot will be re-developed.

2. Keep residents up to date
 Monthly report for every Parish.
 Facebook & Twitter.
 Focus leaflets –10x since Election in 2018.

3. Carry out effective case work on:
 Planning
 Housing
 Highways

- 4. Represent my villages for grant support-total grants in 2023/24 across the District
 Community chest -£58k
 Community led £50k
 Biodiversity-£10k
 Zero carbon Grants £120k
- 6. Work effectively on Cabinet Business Support responsibility

Council Tax Breakdown

Authority	Amount
Cambridgeshire County Council	£1382.77
Cambridgeshire County Council: Adult Social Care Precept	£237.05
South Cambridgeshire District Council	£170.31
Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner	£285.48
Cambridgeshire Fire Authority	£82.26
Mayoral Combined Authority	£36

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NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

**24APM/
06**

Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan Draft completed (April)
 Informal consultation with Local Planning Authority (2 May)
 We have been informed there are very significant delays to the emerging Local Plan which means: Proposal for taking Babraham Research Campus out of the Green Belt not yet adopted
 All of Babraham Parish still remains in the Green Belt
 Any housing allocations in the NP are likely to be rejected due to impact on Green Belt

Timeline for NP means we will be ready before the emerging Local Plan is adopted
 Housing allocation and masterplanning for The Close will need to be taken out of the NP

Potential to resubmit as an amendment to NP once Local Plan adopted report on the Neighbourhood Plan

[Click here for the full presentation for the parish council May 2024](#)

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Policies:

Valued Landscape – Development proposals in the Valued Landscape would only be permitted where they protected and enhanced the special landscape qualities and any impact mitigation measures where necessary

Community Actions:

Avenue of Lime Trees – BPC, BRC and Cheveley Park Farms will establish communications to ensure appropriate management and regenerative planting along the entire Avenue and support a public access path along it.

Important Views – Development proposals must demonstrate there is no detrimental impact on the 11 memorable vistas of Babraham’s character and setting.

Policies:

- Protecting the Granta River Chalk Stream Ecosystem – aims to manage impact of watercourse runoff into the river and encourages landowners and conservation agencies to work collectively to restore river condition, floodplain meadows and reduce pollution, contamination and abstractions.

Community Actions:

- Identifying important trees – BPC to have a parish-wide tree survey undertaken to identify important trees and woodlands for protection and to ensure appropriate succession planting.
- Verge management – BPC to encourage local landowners and South Cambridgeshire District Council (Highways) to create and promote wildflower rich verges through their mowing regime and planting.
- Biodiversity - Development proposals must not harm existing features of landscape and biodiversity value (trees, woodland, hedgerows, open meadowland, waterways, waterbodies and verges) and should provide new habitat, plant trees and restore degraded habitats.

Community Actions:

- Identifying important trees – BPC to have a parish-wide tree survey undertaken to identify important trees and woodlands for protection and to ensure appropriate succession planting.
- Verge management – BPC to encourage local landowners and South Cambridgeshire District Council (Highways) to create and promote wildflower rich verges through their mowing regime and planting.

Policies:

- Local Green Spaces – Four Local green spaces to be designated as particularly important areas for the village.

Development permissions consistent with Green Belt Policies.

- Dark Skies - Any future outdoor lighting systems should have a minimum impact on the environment to minimise light Pollution and adverse effects on wildlife (subject to highway safety and security).

BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND DESIGN

Policies:

Design in the Babraham Conservation Area – Development must preserve and enhance the character, views and setting of the conservation area.

Design Guidelines - Proposals for new development must reflect the local character in the Neighbourhood Plan area by following the Babraham Design Guide.

Sustainable Building Practices - Proposals that incorporate current best practice in energy conservation will be supported

BPC will request an appraisal of the Babraham Conservation Area to identify any non designated heritage assets that contribute significantly to the character, vernacular and heritage of Babraham

HOUSING

No policies

- Current housing requirement is 2 houses in Babraham
- Indication of what potential development in The Close should look like to support community needs and wishes
- Careful design in keeping with the village materials, heights and massing
- Low density housing
- Careful layout to preserve views of parkland
- Shop
- Playground
- Sustainable drainage system and building

SERVICES, FACILITIES AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY

Policies:

- Retaining important community amenities – ensuring that policies support the preservation and enhancement of
 - the Church
 - the School
 - the George Inn

Community-led initiatives for using land in Babraham– BPC will work with the Babraham Research

Campus and the community to continue to encourage using and managing land for community benefit.

TRANSPORT, ROADS AND PATHS

The Neighbourhood Plan has limited influence over things that do not need planning permission.

- This chapter therefore contains ways to work with County Council Highways

Community Actions:

- CSET Scheme – BPC will continue to communicate the views of Babraham Residents with regard to the impacts of the proposed CSET Scheme on Babraham Parish and to encourage better and more transparent consultation.
- Traffic Calming – BPC will work with the County Council / Highways to reduce HGV traffic along the High Street.
- Traffic and Parking around the School – BPC and School will consider ways to decrease traffic and parking issues associated with school pick-up and drop-off

Policies:

- Public Rights of Way –proposals extending Public Rights of Way will be supported if they don't damage the landscape. Suggested PROW to be created (turquoise lines on map

Community Actions

(continued):

- Public Rights of Way – involve the community in the identification of new PROW

Report from the Village Hall Committee

**24APM/
07** Village Hall Update – May 2024

As per last year's update we have planning permission approval to build a small extension to the existing school hall, this includes a larger kitchen, toilets, storage areas and meeting room. The meeting room will be available to the parish to hire during the day, evenings, and weekends. The school hall will become the Babraham village hall during evenings and weekends, with a little TLC (painting, VA system etc). Last year we have spent £18k on the planning process, which has all come out of the s106 funds. £14k on architect fees and £4k on the planning process (including searches and surveys). The original funds remained untouched.

We were unfortunately unable to proceed with the build as the land is owned by Bush and Bennett and leased to the school. As the village hall will not solely be for educational benefits, Bush and Bennett will need to amend their charitable objectives. We have created a working group with Bush & Bennett, Babraham Primary School, DEMAT and Village Hall Committee to help facilitate this.

The working group have produced a document that has been sent to the Solicitors for final review prior to submission to the Charity Commission with the aim of including village activities within the school hall.

This year we have agreed to fund the solicitor fees incurred by Bush and Bennett to the value of £20k excluding Vat. This will again come out of the s106 funds.

Unfortunately, two trustees resigned from the Village Hall Committee during the year, Damon & Jerney. I would like to thank them both for their efforts in helping with the planning process. We now have space for a least two trustees. If you would like to join us, please email/contact me!

Hopefully it won't be long until we can start building.

Report from Babraham Primary School

**24APM/
08**

May 2024

Babraham School Report for the Parish Council

What a difference a year makes! We have had a very happy and successful year at school, with many sporting and cultural activities resuming now that the pandemic has passed.

We have 91 pupils on roll and a stable staff team which works extremely well together to provide an excellent education for the children. We have focused on establishing The Babraham Way which is at the core of everything we do at our school. The three strands are "We try our best", "We are kind" and "We look after our school, our community and the world." Alongside this, we are developing The Babraham Passport which lists many things that the children will experience during their time at Babraham Primary School. This list includes performing in plays, reciting poetry, representing the school in sports tournaments, experiencing live theatre and learning to light a fire without matches. The list is constantly changing as we find other

opportunities for the children to extend their learning and understanding of the world around them.

Our KS2 children travelled to London in December to visit the National Portrait Gallery and to see a performance of The Nutcracker ballet. We have enjoyed success in girls', boys' and mixed football tournaments and have welcomed many visitors to the school. Developing the pond and our outdoor environment is a current priority. Our curriculum is established and the children's knowledge and skills continue to astound us.

The school continues to be organised in four classes. We will receive an Ofsted inspection before September 2025. We continue to enjoy our links to the Church and the research campus. We are very fortunate that The Friends of Babraham School (FoBS) help with many fundraising events for the school.

Victoria Penty

Break - *The position of the break may change in the Agenda*

Report from St Peter's Church

24APM/ 09 St Peter's Report for Babraham Parish Council AGM 09 May 2024

During 2023 we continued with two services a month, a Service of Morning Worship on the first Sunday of the month and a service of Holy Communion on the third Sunday of the month. Children's activities are provided during these services. We are fortunate to have the help of Revd Petra Shakeshaft, our Associate Priest, Canon John Pinder and during October Revd Will Lyon Tupman a curate on placement. Will has returned to us in early 2024 for an extended placement and we have been joined by another retired priest Revd Gordon Harper who may help out from time to time.

Normal routine maintenance was carried out and some emergency roof work replacing some dislodged tiles was also required. We are extremely grateful to the Parish Council and the Babraham Institute who have continued to help maintain the churchyard.

The vicar has continued with her weekly visits to Babraham Primary School which includes taking an assembly. She is also on the Local Governing Body of the school. The school comes to the church for special services which included the School Carol service and at Easter.

A number of activities were held in the church during the year including monthly Saturday afternoon teas during the summer, Easter and Harvest treasure hunts, and an Art Exhibition was again held in September which were very successful, drawing in people from the surrounding area. The Summer Concert and Strawberry teas were popular as ever with several children from the local primary school/village playing, in addition to other local musicians. In October The Punk Shift, a Punk and Indie band held a very successful concert. We are grateful to the Babraham Institute for helping to advertise some of our events across the campus. All these events helped to bring in very much needed funds, however, St Peter's ended the year with a deficit of almost £2,000. It is a continuous challenge to raise the necessary funds for the maintenance of the church and pay our parish share, and we certainly could not function without the support of all our volunteers.

Sadly, we still do not have a church warden. Given the small size of the PC, a lack of church officers, the struggle to raise funds and the costs required to look after the church building, the sustainability of the church is increasingly being called into question. We are urgently looking for members of the wider community to help maintain our beautiful Grade 1 listed building. If you can spare an hour once a month, or whenever you can, to help clean the church or do some work in the church yard please get in touch with Kathryn. Without more help the church is at serious risk of having to close.

Kathryn Waite
Vicar

24APM/ Report from the Bush and Bennett Charity

10

We are very happy to report that Clare Glendinning – a barrister, recently retired from the Government Legal Department - joined the Trustee board last month. Clare has worked in various areas of law and now works part-time on a contract basis, drafting legislation. She moved to Sawston from Duxford in 2019 and, since she is particularly interested in history, is delighted to become a trustee of such an historic trust! The Charity continues to be supported by the wonderful residents of the Old School House – Ed and Mary Hunt.

Happily, we have no changes to our lovely Almshouse Residents or tenants in the front part of the Old School Room.

There were no major works to the Almshouses buildings over the last year bar the completion of the replacement front doors and works to the windows. But belowground foul water drainage problems entailed jetting through all the properties. In the Old School Room we found rotten structural valley timbers – caused by leaking valley gutters over several years and these have therefore been replaced together with masonry repairs to the supporting brick piers. We also undertook some urgent roof repairs at the same time.

In addition to this we have also just undertaken the Quinquennial review of all the buildings, which has thrown up significant work to be done both immediately and within the next five years. Much of the immediate work comprises re-tiling the rear roof slopes of almshouses 3 and 4 (using clay peg tiles as required on these Listed properties) with associated parapet and chimney repointing works.

We have also been working, over the last year, with the Village Hall Committee and Babraham School to progress the shared school/village facility. Proposals are currently with our solicitors – HCR Hewitsons – who are putting together the formal application to the Charity Commission to change the objects to allow for this. The solicitors have recommended, as part of the process, that we seek to incorporate the charity - work on incorporation will start as soon as we approval for this object change. At the same time, we are also seeking to widen the scope of the beneficiaries & area of benefit for the Almshouses as currently detailed in our governing document (and originally specified in 1878) so that we are not restricted to women only and can also – if we need to - look outside the immediate village for new residents.

Sally Punshon
On behalf of the Bush & Bennett Trustees

**24APM/ 11 Report from Babraham Research Campus
BRC REPORT TO BPC AND BP AGM**

FUTURE PLANS

After submission of our overall campus Vision for Growth and Master Plan to the Greater Cambridge emerging Local Plan, we have decided to take this on to the next step. We will be submitting the published Master Plan to the GC Joint Planning Authority as an Outline Planning application. The application will cover the campus areas previously described to the Parish both in council meetings and most prominently in the three days of meetings with local residents in April 2023.

The areas to be covered by the Outline application are all North of the river and are only those published within the existing Vision document. These are The Close residential area, the central area of campus and another area adjacent to the main entrance and set back from the roundabout, annotated as RD3.

The intention for those three areas are to; redevelop the Close to improve the existing housing stock and increase the number of houses and flats to accommodate key workers. Also included are amenities for the local community in and around Babraham village, including The Babraham pre-school Nursery, a general stores shop, café, children's play area and Fitness Gym. The scheme will be landscape led, with permeability through it to allow walking and cycling from village to parkland.

Importantly, the principles demonstrated have been constructed to accord with the principles of the emerging Babraham Village Neighbourhood Plan.

In the central campus there remains a number of old and redundant buildings ready for demolition and replacement, the replacement of these buildings will provide research space for both the Babraham Institute and a centre for innovation where ideas at the bench are translated into possible emerging healthcare treatments.

The final area, RD3, is aimed at providing new facilities for companies that are scaling up in size but remain of a size that need the support that the campus can provide.

Definition of an Outline Planning Application

An application for outline planning permission allows for a decision on the general principles of how a site can be developed. Outline planning permission is granted subject to conditions requiring the subsequent approval of one or more 'reserved matters'.

The Outline planning applications are used to gain an understanding as to whether the nature of a development is acceptable, this can help ensure viability up front. Specific details known as '[reserved matters](#)' can then be confirmed later. Allowing for planning permission to be granted subject to the condition that reserved matters are approved before development begins.

If Outline consent is gained it will allow us to begin to translate our Vision into a reality.

Planned works to the estate land

Works over the next 12 months :

- Understorey planting in the woodland areas, to provide a better layering structure to the woods & fill gaps left by ash dieback
- Planting of woodland to continue across the estate
- Looking at ways to improve the footpath structure and function, especially in wet weather
- Continue to develop the wild bird, insect and pollinator plots (look out for splashes of colour!)
- Continue to coppice and pollard the woodlands, to promote structural and habitat diversity

- Continue with the wildflower seed collection and sowing on pockets of the arable land margins
- Continue with our reinstatement of ancient hedgerows programme
- Carry on and further the works with the EA and Wild Trout Trust to increase the flood alleviation provided by Estate land along the River Granta.

Within the main campus area we will continue to increase the cycling facilities and EV charging infrastructure to encourage cycling and the use of electric vehicles.

We also hope to erect a new barn on the old farm to be used as store for materials to be used within the campus.

Lastly, we have commissioned the Cambridge Archaeology Unit to construct a web site that will demonstrate the find across the campus over the past 30 years. It will be interactive and designed to have a broad appeal across the age ranges. This will of course be a free to access site and hosted within the campus external web pages. Once the web page is complete we will complement it with a series of events for the local community to demonstrate the archaeology that lies underneath us within Babraham.

24APM/ Forest Garden Project.

12 1. Forest Garden Steering Group

The Steering Group held its inaugural meeting on 6th October 2023 with representatives for the project, the Parish Council, the Research Campus, and the Community. The function of the Steering Group is to agree an appropriate governance structure for the Forest Garden, understand any site liabilities and enable any funds to be directed to the Forest Garden in the long term. Terms of Reference were created to reflect the group's remit. The Group has met three times and, after reviewing the range of possible governance structures, is currently reviewing the suitability of a leasing arrangement between BRC and the Parish Council.

2. Babraham Community Forest Garden Project - Year 3 Summary

Activities carried out during Year 3:

- 2 wild cherry trees planted
- 5-bar gate lock fixed (gate posts had warped)
- Multiple working party days for mowing, strimming, planting, weeding
- Forest Garden presented at Sustainable Babraham event at BRC
- Facebook page maintained
- Presentation at the Parish Council meeting in March 2024 on the objectives of the Forest Garden and all work completed so far (copy provided for circulation)

Next steps

- Budget, design and produce signage to describe the objectives of the Forest Garden and what the community to expect to see in the site
- Inventory of plants
- Permanent labelling

Summer working parties

24APM/ Any Other Business / Open Forum

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Signature: *Anne Charteris* Clerk 22nd May 2024

10 Duxford Rd, Hinxton, Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 1RB