

NEWS RELEASE from www.savefulbournfields.org

ACTION NEEDED TO STOP THREAT TO CAMBRIDGE VILLAGE

A company headquartered in China is proposing to build on green fields close to Cambridge.

If they get planning permission for this housing in Fulbourn village, it could open the floodgates for building on many other unplanned and unsuitable green fields near Cambridge.

Hutchison Whampoa is a multinational conglomerate, and one of the largest companies listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

An Outline Planning Application for 110 homes (ref: S/2273/14/OL)* was submitted on their behalf by Castlefield International Ltd to South Cambs District Council on 19/9/14. Anyone who wants to comment on the plans should write to the council preferably by 4/11/2014. (* for Land at Teversham Rd, Fulbourn) <http://bit.ly/1z8wA6W>

The developer is seeking to circumvent local policy and gain planning approval in the 'interregnum' before the Emerging Local Plan is adopted. Action which is particularly attractive due to the fast rising house prices in Cambridge.

The site, uncultivated due to its location over an earlier active aquifer providing water to Cambridge, adjoins a historic horse pond, a natural spring, and a village conservation area.

David Cottee of Fulbourn Forum for community action said: "This highly inappropriate development on green fields is contrary to both local and national development plan policy. It will cause the loss of long established public amenity space and harm the adjacent conservation area. The developer's plans must be stopped"

The proposal is opposed locally because

- The Site has been previously rejected by South Cambs as unsuitable for development
- The Draft Local Plan rightly protects this area as 'Local Green Space'
- Fulbourn is full, with other further development already in the pipeline. The village infrastructure will be overwhelmed
- The village school and the health centre are already over-stretched
- No commitment is given to satisfying the important issue of providing the statutory percentage of affordable homes, due to 'abnormal' development costs because of difficult site conditions
- Minor Rural Centres (the proposed designation for Fulbourn in the Draft Local Plan) are restricted to developments of less than 30 houses
- This wet site, 'prone to surface water flooding', will become an area of dense housing surrounded by marsh, water retention basins and accessed by boardwalks

TIME FOR ACTION! www.savefulbournsfields.org is urging local people to write to South Cambs District Council, (quoting ref no S/2273/14/OL) with their concerns. There are several ways to do this. By post to: Development Control, South Cambs District Council, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne, CB23 6EA, by email to: scdc@scams.gov.uk or direct through the website at www.scams.gov.uk.

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For further information contact David Cottee at Fulbourn Forum for community action Tel: 01223 880616 See also the websites: www.savefulbournsfields.org and www.fulbournforum.org