

HPERA is up and running

The Hurst Park Estate Residents' Assoc. is now up and running, and is recognised as a "stakeholder" in respect of the G^{tr} Cambridge City Deal proposals. These proposals concern the road developments for Cambridge City and outskirts to combat car congestion, encourage "greener" travel behaviour and facilitate faster bus travel between Cambridge City Centre and outlying regions. Many residents of the Hurst Park Estate appreciate the broad aims of the project but hold that the proposed solutions are destructive to the environment. Moreover, established communities along and near to arterial routes, such as Milton Road are severely threatened.

We seek to persuade City Deal officials of a better way to achieve the same aims, more sympathetic to the environments and more considerate to communities. Acting in the interests of Hurst Park, Orchard, Highfield, Leys and Highworth Avenues, Leys Rd and Mulberry Close, HPERA is currently managed by a temporary Steering Group. The group will oversee business until the end of the current City Deal consultation period, after which a formal establishment process will be conducted.

Inaugural Meeting draws over 150

At the inaugural meeting, held at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Mansel Way, on Wed 6th January, over 150 concerned residents squeezed in and contributed to a lively debate about the implications of the proposed Milton Road changes. A wide range of opinions were voiced from concerns about environmental degradation, destruction of communities and the safety of parents, carers and children on school runs to doubts about the validity of underpinning evidence, the apparent changes of proposal from the engineer's draft and concerns about rat-running. A video of the event and the slides presented can be found on HPERA's web site at: www.hpera.co.uk. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to funds at the

meeting, and afterwards. Over £190 was raised which will be used for hall hire, printing & paper etc.

HPERA in the Cambridge News

Members of HPERA posed in front of the threatened "Highworth Roundabout" for Saturday's edition of *CN* to draw attention to one of the key operational and environmental concerns. Replacement of the roundabout with traffic lights is intended to reduce accidents and improve the through-speed of buses. The statistical basis of these claims has been heavily challenged and the unintended consequences for the Hurst Park Estate in terms of car congestion, pollution, noise, danger and inconvenience for those who have no choice but to use cars, is believed to far outweigh the minimal speed advantages for bus riders.

What happened to *Do Minimum*?

On page 74 of the "Milton Road and Histon Road Corridors Draft Options Report" dated September 2015, there are **three** development options described: ***Do Minimum***, ***Do Something*** and ***Do Maximum***. In the ***Do Minimum*** and ***Do Something*** options, the Highworth Roundabout is retained as-is and Highworth Avenue left alone.

By the time the grey-ish leaflet passed through residents' doors in December, The ***Do Minimum*** option had disappeared altogether, and the ***Do Something*** option seems to have undergone an unexpected change in which the Highworth Roundabout is transformed into a set of traffic lights, with no access to Highworth Avenue from Milton Road.

The removal of the roundabout is highly significant since the new traffic lights will have a major effect on traffic levels, pollution, noise and danger in the Hurst Park Estate. Hence, giving residents an effective choice between **no roundabout** and **no roundabout** is curious indeed and, it seems, not at all welcome!

Website, Twitter & Email

The HPERA website and Twitter accounts are now available. Browse the website at www.hpera.co.uk to find out the latest news and views and download clips and videos. If you are interested in Twitter, set yourself up with a free Twitter account and “follow” **@HPERAcam** to see what’s being said and to participate in the conversations. Send Emails to **contact@hpera.co.uk**. You should get a response within a day or so, but if not, give the team a prompt. We have received such a large response to leaflet drops and the inaugural meeting that it’s taking a while to properly respond to everyone.

Informal Drop-in Consultations:

View the plans – speak direct to Council officers:

- Tues 12 Jan, 4-8pm, Mayfield Sch, Warwick Rd
- Wed 13 Jan, 4-7pm, Chesterton Comm College
- Tues 19 Jan, 4-9pm, St Georges’s Ch.
- Wed 20 Jan, 4-9pm, St Laurence’s Ch.
- Mon 25 Jan, 4-8pm, Chesterton Comm College
- Tues 26 Jan, 5-9pm, Meadows Comm Centre

Drop-in events for Cycling Routes:

- Tues 12 Jan, 6-8:30pm, Shire Hall
- Tues 2 Feb, 5-8pm, Meadows Comm Centre
- Thurs 4 Feb 5-8:30pm, Shirley Primary Sch.

Key Meetings

- **Alternative ways to solve the City’s Traffic Problems and the Milton Rd Devt**
Thurs 21 Jan, 7pm, Chesterton Comm College
- **North Area Committee Public Meeting with Lewis Herbert, Ldr, Cam CC & Chair, City Deal**
Thurs 4 Feb, 6pm, Chesterton Comm College

New Cycle Route Plans

In addition to road projects, 5 improvement projects for cyclists are planned. The nearest scheme likely to affect our Estate is the Arbury Road Route. Peruse the plans at:

www.gccitydeal.co.uk/cross-city-cycling

NOTE ALSO: the proposed closure of Mansel Way to traffic from Arbury Road

What can residents do?

We are in the middle of a consultation period that ends on 15th February. First, please review the City Deal proposal for Milton Road at: www.gccitydeal.co.uk/milton-road. Before the end-date, complete the **on-line** form or send back your paper form (one form per person). Call **01223 699906** to request more forms, or just copy the one you have.

Also, if you feel that the form does not allow sufficient flexibility to express your views, **please write direct to the City Deal team** at city.deal@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or by letter to: City Deal Team, SH1311, Shire Hall, Castle Hill, Cambridge CB3 0AP.

Please **write direct to your councillors and Council officials** – their details are on the HPERA and MRRA websites.

Plus, we will be drafting a submission embodying key concerns and will need help to do so. More on that very soon.

Milton Rd Residents Assoc. (MRRA)

MRRA was the first of the residents associations concerned with the Milton Rd development to be established, and our interests are interrelated. Do look at their website for additional useful information, at:

<http://www.miltonroadra.org>

Not “on-line” – Tell Us!

If you are not “on-line” (web, Email, Twitter etc.), please let us know and we’ll keep you informed with more traditional methods. Write to: HPERA, 65 Hurst Park Avenue, Cambridge CB4 2AA (or just drop a note through the door).

Credits

Thank-you so much for the offers of help with leaflet drops and other activities. We will shortly be inviting volunteers to take on tasks.

Your Residents’ Association

We’ll be discussing how HPERA can develop beyond the Milton Rd issues in future editions.