

## Friends of Cherry Hinton Hall

23 Chartfield Road  
Cherry Hinton  
Cambridge  
CB1 9JX

Ms Debbie Kaye  
Head of Active Communities  
Cambridge City Council  
Mandela House  
44 St. Andrews Street  
Cambridge  
CB2 3AS

3 November 2009

Dear Ms Kaye,

### **Future use of Cherry Hinton Hall Propagation Centre area**

The Friends of Cherry Hinton Hall (FCHH) is a recently established and fast-growing group, concerned about the usage, environment, welfare and future of the Cherry Hinton Hall grounds for the benefit of all those who use it. The group now has approximately 120 members and was formed because local people felt that the City Council were taking decisions about the Hall grounds without consultation with local people, in particular with the siting of the 'natural play area' this spring. City Council officers cited the lack of a group as significant in their failure to consult residents prior to the installation of the play area, and that the formation of such a group would ensure proper consultation on important issues in the future.

We are now fully constituted and wish to be involved in any plans for the Hall grounds. As you are aware the propagation centre site is a very significant one, being centrally located and situated between the wildlife, open space and arboreal areas. I understand from our secretary, Stuart Newbold, that a number of stages regarding the future use of the propagation centre site have been outlined for drawing up options and then consulting on them. I believe this formed part of a written answer at a Council meeting earlier in 2009, and although timetables may have slipped, we understand the stages to be:

1. Generation of an 'options and actions' plan
2. Consult and prioritise elements
3. Consideration of proposals by South Area Committee
4. Build up design and funding options
5. Improve Your Neighbourhood/s106 VY South Area Committee
6. Approval of new items onto s106 programme
7. Project appraisal to commit expenditure

I would be grateful if you could confirm to FCCH –

- The approximate timetable for the above and that the identified stages remain as set out above
- The stages at which the Friends of Cherry Hinton Hall and other stakeholders will be asked to make representations, and how these will then be considered

and

- That no decision has or will be made on the part or full use of the former propagation centre site without proper stakeholder (and, as appropriate, resident) consultation and/or use of the procedure listed above

As you know, my original concerns regarding the lack of consultation to the residents regarding past developments prompted me to write to David Howarth MP outlining my concerns. In Mr Howarth's last letter to me, he asked if I could keep him informed on the progress of FCHH, and any response the group receives from Council Officers regarding mutual consultation going forward. This being the case, I am also forwarding copies of this letter to Mr Howarth along with Cambridge City Council Executive Cllr for Arts & Recreation, Julie Smith.

I look forward to your prompt reply, in particular prior to any further meetings or developments, thereby ensuring that our mutual commitment to proper and meaningful consultation is respected.

Yours sincerely,

Bob Daines  
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