This development is completely out of position and scale as regards the existing settlement of Cottenham and appears more driven by financial gain from technical shortcomings in the planning system than truly sustainable development. Reject this and other similar proposals.

I understood that the Local Plan’s intention was to focus development on the edge of Cambridge and strategic sites such as Northstowe and Waterbeach where associated infrastructure investments are being made; not vulnerable rural villages like Cottenham which are becoming less sustainable as through traffic increases, public transport services are reduced and pressure on public services, from education to health, increases. I’ve seen no proof that additional housing at this scale is needed in Cottenham and doubt that the promised affordable homes, some of which are undoubtedly needed for local people, will actually be made available at prices those local people can afford. Many of the other so-called benefits of the scheme scarcely offset the additional burden, let alone deliver a benefit. I cannot even see how it is compatible with your planning policies. Residents of Cottenham, especially those living in the so-called Conservation Area on the High Street are already subjected to unsustainable traffic flows with only narrow, uneven pavements to separate many of their frontages from the grinding noise of passing traffic. They have less protection still when they venture out onto those pavements and get closer to the intimidating HGVs and heavy agricultural vehicles passing through. We hear that the population in our villages is ageing. We have to do more to make our pavements and village centres safe for the elderly and young or the villages will die. We cannot just accept increased housing development knowing that it will lead to further increases in traffic. With additional housing comes an existential flood risk to low-lying areas like Cottenham where surface water has to be pumped out of the ditches and drains into the Great Ouse to be carried away to sea. Hardening more of the land by development increases the rate at which surface water runs off bring us closer to a repeat of the 1947 floods which led to a major review of flood prevention measures and a doubling of pump capacity to “catch up” with rainfall at that time. Since then peak rainfall has increased but pumping capacity has stayed the same.