Neighbour comments

S/0791/18/FL – proposed relocation of Waterbeach train station

5 Cheason Walk
Waterbeach
CB25 9FJ

We would like to make a few points:

- We are very supportive of improving the rail connection in Waterbeach. The current station is not adequate for the current residents and must be addressed, regardless of the outcome of the village expansion. In particular,
  - Access to the current station is very poor as Station Road (which is in effect a single-track road due to parked cars) also doubles as a cut-through to Cambridge – a situation that will likely get worse with any increase in housing;
  - The capacity of the station is inadequate. Eight carriage trains are widely accepted as a necessity.
- Any proposed relocation should address both issues. There will be an inevitable cost to some in the village if there is a relocation which will need to be mitigated, but we feel failing to address only one of these issues would risk returning insufficient value for the majority of residents.

The proposal has some commendable points, and needs to be of the size proposed, but the access provisions fall unacceptably short of what is required. The proposal would channel all traffic – several hundred cars a day – through the junction at the top of Bannold Road and through the back streets of Cody Road and Bannold Drove. Even with the modifications in the proposal, Cody Road and Bannold Drove would provide poor access. The junction at the top of Bannold Road is of particular concern as it is already a difficult junction with a blind corner and exceptionally wide crossing.

We would strongly recommend that if the station is relocated to this location a new access route is considered and developed as part of the new development. A suitable road, joining the High Street at the existing Barracks entrance, or similar new access road, could address this.

We would also wish to suggest that alternatives to relocation are considered as any relocation would impact residents that value or are dependent upon the current station location. There is adequate space to expand the existing station on the far side of the railway line if the access issues can be addressed. This would likely require changes to parking provisions, and impact the residents on Station Road, but these are also the people most likely to be affected by a relocation. It would be interesting to hear their opinions.

Regards,

The Martins