

Burwell Parish Council
Community, Leisure, and Sport Meeting of 18.4.23 at 7.30 pm
Jubilee Reading Room

Minutes

Present: Michael Swift (Chair), Ian Woodroofe, Jenny Moss, Paul Webb, Liz Swift, Geraldine Tate, Helen McMenamin-Smith, and Jim Perry.

CL&S/180423/01 Apologies for absences and declarations of interests

There were no apologies for absence and no declarations of interest.

CL&S/180423/02 Approval of the minutes of the 21.2.23

The minutes of the meeting held on the 21st February 2023 were approved and signed as a true record.

CL&S/180423/03 Action Sheet Updates on the following

The following updates were noted:

PROJECT	
Recreation Ground, Pavilion, Tennis Courts, Burwell Football Club, and use of Margaret Field for Football	<p>A meeting with Burwell Football Club is due to be held in June, but maybe moved forward.</p> <p>Work is due to start on the pavilion on 9th May 23. The contract will last for 10 weeks plus approximately 4 weeks drying time. The control panel for the floodlights in the pavilion will still be accessible. The Carnival would like a water supply if possible. In future winters it may be necessary to leave the heating on low or turn the water off in extreme weather conditions.</p> <p>The Maintenance Officer is in the process of cleaning the tennis court surface. If this does not clean the surface satisfactorily, then Cambridge Courts could carry out a clean and repair to small areas of damage at a cost of £1550 plus VAT.</p>
Spring Close Management Group	<p>Two meetings have taken place since the last CL&S meeting. One working day has also taken place. The new signage should be ready soon.</p>
Pauline's Swamp	<p>There is no further movement with the transfer of land from Hopkins Homes who are looking not to carry out the transfer until such time as the sale has been completed for the rest of the land.</p> <p>There is concern that land adjacent to the Swamp which accommodates a feeder pond for the swamp is up for sale. Jenny Moss to contact the ECDC Tree Officer and Cambridgeshire Wildlife about these concerns.</p>
BAFY	<p>No Trustee meeting have taken place since the last CL&S meeting. Difficulties in having enough adults covering sessions have yet to be resolved, meaning that some sessions have needed to be cancelled and with limited adult support fundraising has not been possible.</p> <p>They have been offered a Pool Table, which would be useful for the older children, but there is no room to store the table at Mandeville Hall. It is understood that setting up BAFY as a Community Interest Company is being investigated. The group is often paying for the hall when they cancel sessions as they have not informed the Parish Council office.</p>
Community Orchard	<p>It was agreed that the Clerk should order some wooden discs so that the discs can be made as labels for the trees which corresponds with the tree descriptions on the information board.</p>
Community Garden	<p>Helen McMenamin-Smith reported that there is not enough money to carry out the work to provide the seating area and the footpaths. It was therefore agreed that the work should take place in two</p>

	phases. Helen McMenamin-Smith, Jenny Moss and Paul Webb were asked to start constructing the seating area. A recommendation to go to Full Council that the Clerk approaches ECDC regarding funding opportunities for the footpaths.
Liaison with Sports Centre	Helen McMenamin-Smith reported that the Sports Centre is going well, although it would be beneficial if the manager and Charles Milner could work together more.
Climate Change Policy	Lea Dodds has drawn up a revised compact version of the Council's Climate Change Policy. Paul Webb felt that initially the full version should have been revised prior to work starting on the shorter document. Any revised documents will be considered by the Climate Change Forum prior to being taken to Full Council for adoption.
A to B1102 Group	The group is looking at where they are at having spent the past months looking at the proposed congestion charge, Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership proposals and coming up with an alternative public transport system. The group is now looking at its way forward as a pressure group.
Westhorpe Play Area	£10k Section 106 Grant approved. Awaiting quotation from Grays Surfacing to support grant for footpaths. A quotation is due to come in from Prospects Trust for moving the bark. Agreed the Clerk should sign the contract paperwork but should remind Playdale of the 5% retention sum. David Bracey to be asked to carry out the post installation inspection. Clerk reminded the group that there will be a need for the Parish Council to cover the amounts due from EDF and the Battery Storage Unit until the donations have been received.
Repair Café	The next café is due to be held on the 10 th June 2023 and then one in September. A Steering Group meeting is due to be held on 3 rd May 2023 followed by two meetings for the volunteers. The café sessions will continue to be held at Mandeville Hall.
Paddle the Lode	The Clerk understands that the group are looking at applying for a ECDC Community Facilities Improvement Grant which will require support from the Parish Council.
Newmarket Road Sports Hub	Michael Swift reported that he was concerned that This Land had not attended the recent Taskforce Group meeting or had attended the meeting with Lucy Frazer MP, the FA, Football Foundation, Parish Council, and the Football Club. The Need Assessment Report is currently being finalised by Mulhull Leisure Consultancy. This Land has offered no more so far than taking the services to the entrance of the hub, drainage, and levelling. It would be good if they could contribute something towards the building.

CL&S/180423/04 Burwell War Memorial Fund and Burwell Stephenson Nursing Bequest Trust

A request has been received from the Burwell War Memorial Fund and the Burwell Stephenson Nursing Bequest Trust for the Parish Council to take over the trust. It was agreed that a meeting needs to take place with the current trustees to find out more about what is involved before any recommendation can be made to Full Council.

CL&S/180423/05 Disabled Access Spring Close

A disabled access kissing gate can be purchased for around £500-£700 and the Maintenance Officer feels confident that he would be able to fit the gate adjacent to the main entrance gate. The Clerk to find out how much is in this year's Spring Close budget so that the Spring Close Management can decide on if they should go ahead or not.

CL&S/180423/06 Donations for Consideration

- Cambridgeshire Libraries
- Engage

It was agreed that a recommendation should be made to Full Council that a £200.00 donation should be made to both Cambridgeshire Libraries for the Summer Reading Scheme and to the Burwell Engage Scheme.

CL&S/180423/07 Any other business

A letter had been received from the Hedgehogs R Us Highway Project asking for the Parish Council to purchase a pack of Hedgehog gates. The group agreed that as this is national project it was not covered by the Council's donation policy.

CL&S/180423/08 Date of the next meeting

To be confirmed.

Michael Swift thanked those involved with the group for their work and time given. Michael Swift was thanked by group members for chairing the meetings.

The meeting ended at 8.42 pm.

Signed

Dated

My ref: SRC23
Your ref:
Date: 05/04/2023
Contact: Rob Gwilliam
Telephone: 01353616167
Email: rob.gwilliam@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

People and Communities
Cambridgeshire Libraries

Burwell Parish Council
Jubilee Reading Room
99 The Causeway
Burwell
CB25 0DU

Ely Library
6 The Cloisters
Ely
CB6 4ZH

Dear Sir/Madam,

Spring is in the air, and for the libraries that can only mean one thing, the drive to organise this year's reading challenge. The Reading Agency have announced the theme for this year, which is 2023 Summer Reading Challenge: Ready Steady Read!

Last year's 2022 Summer Reading Challenge: Gadgeteers brought 6020 Cambridgeshire children into libraries to keep up their reading skills and confidence, so preventing the dip in their learning that happens naturally over the school holidays. Burwell again had finishing statistics above the County average, and that is down to your support allowing us to run events for them during the holidays.

The cost of living crisis that everyone is facing continues, and we are hoping families continue to see libraries and the Summer Reading Challenge especially as something that is available to them, but this means we will need additional resources if we are going to ensure that as many families as possible in our community are able to take part in, and benefit from, this exciting and fun Challenge. These will include extra staffing hours, materials for activities, non-library-based promotion and access to community/outdoor spaces.

Last year, your generous offer also allowed us to welcome the Inflatable Theatre with his balloon magic show designed around the Gadgeteers them to the library. His show was followed by a balloon demonstration and every child left with a balloon animal. With this year's theme being around sports and exercise, we're hoping to inspire children and their families not just to read, but to get active too.

Reading for pleasure is more important to children's success than education or social class, so we hope you feel you can support us to deliver this year's Ready Steady Read, Summer Reading Challenge in your community.

Additionally, we would like to invite a representative from the Parish Council along to the ceremony to present the medals to the finishers. The ceremony this year will be happening on Thursday 28th September between 4-5pm in Burwell Library.

Please contact me at the address/email address in the letter heading.

Yours sincerely

Rob Gwilliam
Area Library Manager East Cambridgeshire
People and Communities
Cambridgeshire County Council



Ely Library
6 The Cloisters
Ely
Cambs
CB7 4ZH
01353 616166

michelle.goody@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Burwell Parish Council
Jubilee Reading Room,
99 The Causeway
Burwell
CB25 0DU

2nd March 2023

Dear Yvonne Rix,

As you have previously very kindly supported the Summer Reading Challenge at Burwell Library, I wanted to tell you about our monthly Engage in the Morning sessions. These sessions are monthly social and information events held in libraries across the county. Library staff open the library (outside of our normal opening hours), provide refreshments, and book a Guest Speaker to talk to the Group. We have had a range of talks like Duxford airfield, Family History, The human body and the history of medicine.

Engage is very well attended at Burwell and last few months we have had 26-30 people. The impact that these sessions has is both educational and offers a way to meet new people, relieving any loneliness particularly for those who are widows.

However, when booking Guest Speakers, we must be mindful that there is no budget, and we are therefore quite restricted. Many speakers' charges for a talk, and others will ask for expenses. I do ask participants for donations, but these mainly just cover refreshments.

In view of this, I wondered whether Burwell parish Council would consider making a small donation which we could use to fund Speakers from further afield. If you were able to do this, I am confident that an even more enriching programme of Speakers could be offered. This could ultimately result in more people from the Burwell Community attending.

I would also like to extend an invitation to join us at one of our monthly meetings which are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month 10-11.30am and meet the group.

Many thanks
Michelle Goody

Engage in the Morning coordinator





Volunteering with Cambridgeshire Libraries

Library at Home Service volunteers visit

housebound library members monthly to supply library books, large-print books or audiobooks,

We are always looking for friendly booklovers to help us deliver this vital service. Can you spare an hour or two once a month?

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please contact us or ask in your local library.

0345 045 5225

volunteers@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library

engage



East Cambridgeshire District Programme January - April 2023

These are **monthly** social and information events held in libraries across the county. Come along to hear an interesting speaker, have a cup of tea, meet new friends and use the library. Everyone is welcome.



www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library

10 - 11.30am
2nd Wednesday of the month

Wednesday 11th January

Duxford Airfield 'Then and Now'—Bernard Olley

Wednesday 8th February

The port of Felixstowe and the rise of containerisation - Tim Young

How Felixstowe developed from tiny beginnings into a huge port. Includes the history and manufacture of containers and the women's balloon corps in WW11.

Wednesday 8th March

Your Family back to 1066 - David Copsey

Find out how to trace your family history, with hints and tips for this fascinating subject. The talk will include both introductory and more advanced sources, and suggest approaches that will identify your family for several generations, and perhaps to 1066.

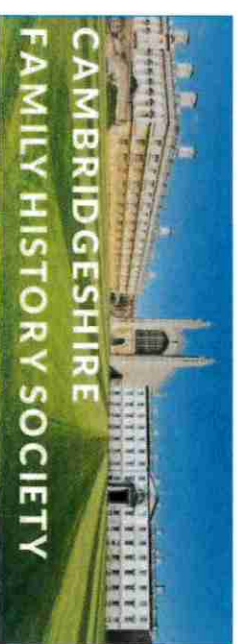
Wednesday 12th April

The Human body and The History of Medicine

Find out more about the history of medicine and anatomy with objects from the Whipple Museum of the History of Science. Explore how sight and hearing works and test a Victorian medical device which claimed to cure pretty much everything!

Come along to a Coffee Morning and Jigsaw Exchange at Ely Library on the 3rd Saturday of the month 10-12pm

The Friends sponsor and support projects to enhance the library. New members are always welcome.

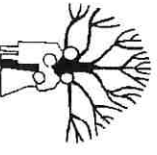


Free, one to one advice is available at Ely Library

3rd Wednesday of alternate months

Members of Cambridgeshire Family History Society will be available between 10am – 3pm, All Welcome

Wednesday 15th March





2-3.30pm
3rd Tuesday of the month



2 - 3.30pm
1st Tuesday of the month

Tuesday 17th January - Welcome to 2023

Tuesday 3rd January – No Engage

Tuesday 21st February

Folklore of British Insects - Chris Firth

An informative and entertaining discussion about the medicinal and culinary uses of insects with live readings and a showcase of artwork.

Tuesday 7th February

Cambridgeshire Customs and Folklore - Nora Gardner

A look at the regional traditions and customs, both practical and bizarre, focussed around the perpetual triangle of birth, love and death.

Tuesday 21st March

King John's Fens - Diane Calton-Smith

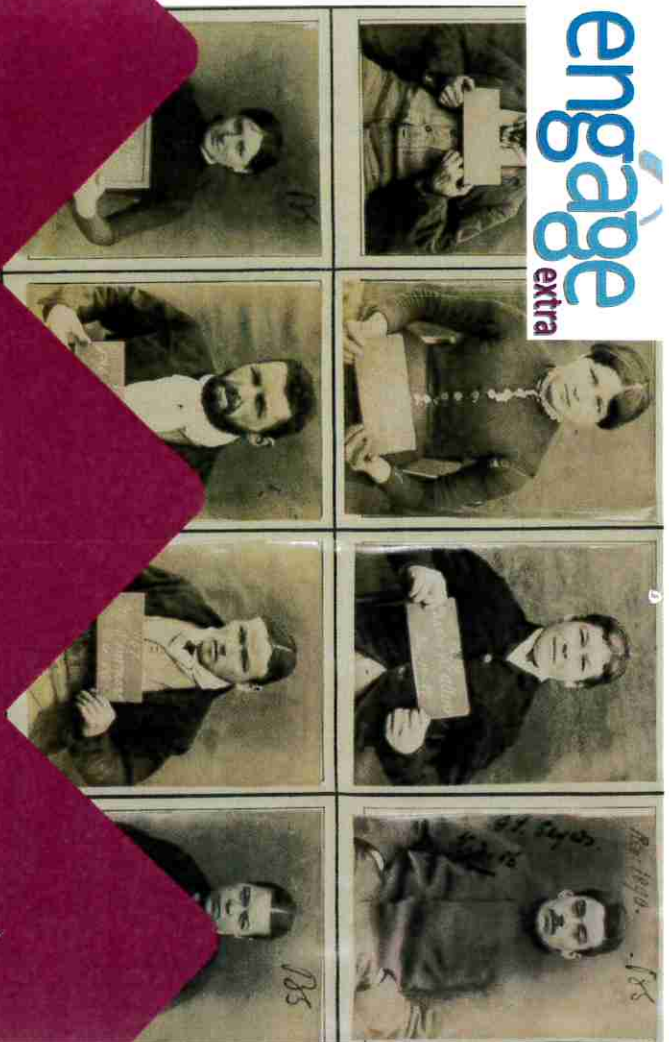
This talk takes us on a imaginary journey along the rivers of 1216. We travel from Crowland via Thorney, Peterbough and Ramsey to Ely, then onwards via March and Wisbech. On the way, we view medieval landscape with its Fen islands and monasteries, discovering a world we would hardly recognise today.

Tuesday 7th March – TBC

Tuesday 4th April —TBC

Tuesday 18th April

Nora Gardner - Title of talk TBC



Ely Archives-Poor Law & Prison Records

Ely Library

Friday 10th March

2-3pm • £3 per person

Join Archive Assistants Yaye Tang and Laura Housden from Cambridgeshire Archives as they delve into the world of poor law before and after the Poor Law Act of 1834 as well as the reality of prisons in the 19th century, with many historical documents illustrating the varied duties of parish administered poor law, life inside the workhouse and conditions in the county's prisons.

Please book your place in advance at the desk

library **Ely** 2 - 3.30pm 2nd Tuesday of the month

Tuesday 10th January

Ploesti – Roy Williams

To the Romanian oil fields of Ploesti, the most intense ground to air battle of all time took place. Flying at tree top height into the valley more than 150 aircraft leap frogged the smoke stakes.

Tuesday 14th February

A Fenland Leper House - Diane Calton-Smith

This talk takes us back in time to the 1300s when leprosy was rife in England and throughout Europe. As we travel back to take a closer look at the medieval leper hospital of Wisbech, a great many surprises await.

Tuesday 14th March

Peopling the A14: life and death in ancient Cambridgeshire

The excavations on the A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Road Improvement Scheme (A14C2H) in Cambridgeshire revealed evidence of a landscape occupied from the Neolithic through to the Saxon period. Local trends in funerary behaviour followed regional patterns but also highlighted examples of exceptional preservation as well as intriguing insights into burial customs and the lives and health of past communities.

Tuesday 11th April - The port of Felixstowe and the rise of containerisation - Tim Young

How Felixstowe developed from tiny beginnings into a huge port. Includes the history and manufacture of containers and the women's balloon corps in WW11.

Yvonne Rix

From: mike.starnes@ntlworld.com
Sent: 19 April 2023 13:40
To: 'Rachel McKenzie'
Cc: 'Christopher Smith'; 'Matthew Dunling'; Yvonne Rix; 'Roger Osborn'; jane.starnes@ntlworld.com
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Burwell Battery Storage Facility 17/02205/FUL
Attachments: Jan 23 VAR-Design__Access_Statement__Plan-1419083.pdf; soft landscape strategy.pdf; revised elevations jan 23.pdf; PXL_20230419_102845235.jpg; PXL_20230419_102913196.jpg

Dear Rachel,

Thanks for your e-mail.

All the information is on the ECDC planning portal under Ref Ref. No: 22/01460/VAR | Received: Mon 12 Dec 2022.

For ease of access I have attached the relevant documents as follows:

- 1) The developers soft landscape strategy dated Dec 21
- 2) Revised Elevations Dec 22
- 3) Section 73 Revision to Planning Permission 20/01645/VAR

I have also taken photos today (19th April 2023) which can be seen on the following link: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/qmijg4jefuuo5ygwcxzanp/h?dl=0&rlkey=iibi7effzrpc2d2vnbuf7u0n5> (They were too big to attach to e-mail)

The Landscape Strategy states the details of the hedge and species rich grasses that should have been established by now if their prescribed maintenance regime had been followed.

The Elevations show the height that the hedge should grow to (the green shadow). This is essential to provide visual screening, but more importantly additional acoustic screening which is still an issue. Compare the approved proposals to the reality on my photos! I can point out to you (if required) other hedgerows in the area planted at about the same time which have become firmly established.

The section 73 Revision to planning document shows a revised plan at Page 15. This shows the hedgerows in green.

It appears that the developer has carried out some work on the hedgerow in the last few weeks which I assumed was as a result of you asking questions. However it is a complete waste of time unless the plants are maintained in accordance with the landscape strategy, particularly as they are planed on top of a bund which will be very dry.

As I have pointed out to you before I find it incredibly frustrating that the Enforcement Office is not aware of these non-compliance issues. All these issues have been raised with the Planning Officer as part of the consultation process and are recorded on the ECDC Planning portal. In particular Burwell Parish Council specifically stated in response to 22/01460/VAR that the hedgerow had not established and asked that the council take action to rectify it.

I look forward to hearing the results of your follow up action

Regards

Mike Starnes

Yvonne Rix

From: mike.starnes@ntlworld.com
Sent: 19 April 2023 14:17
To: 'Christopher Smith'
Cc: Yvonne Rix; jane.starnes@ntlworld.com
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Burwell Battery Storage Facility 17/02205/FUL

Hi Christopher,

Thanks for your reply, I appreciated that you were out of office for a while.

The noise does appear to have reduced again at my location so I don't think anything will be gained at the moment by taking your time and resource in carrying out a survey here. That said the noise is still intrusive along Low Road and Smiths Orchard and residents there may well have a different opinion. The noise does seem to be variable but I haven't been able to establish a pattern related to seasons (ie different loadings on the batteries) or simply due to weather or atmospheric conditions.

Realistically I can't see anything changing with the noise output from the equipment and just hope that the hedgerow when established will provide further screening. (I have replied to the Enforcement Officer separately on that issue).

My greater concern is the impact that the additional two Battery Storage facilities will have on the local residents and the environment. I just hope that with the lessons learnt on this one that ECDC Planning will be more rigorous in ensuring that all conditions are complied with rather than just taking the developers word for it. As I said to the Enforcement Officer all the issues I (and other residents) are raising were spelt out to the Planning Officer before the various approvals were granted. Needless to say I will be monitoring the future sites very closely.

Finally I would be grateful if you could keep me updated on anything you get back from the Planning Inspectorate on the potential Fire/Explosion/Toxic fumes risks. An installation 3 times the size of the current one is concerning!

Thanks for your interest and support with this issue. Your timely responses have been much appreciated.

Regards

Mike Starnes

From: Christopher Smith <Christopher.Smith@eastcambs.gov.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 1:24 PM
To: mike.starnes@ntlworld.com
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Burwell Battery Storage Facility 17/02205/FUL

Hi Mike,

My apologies for the delay in coming back to you.

I understand the recommendations you have made but at this time we would not be in a position to request a new survey from the site. If there are issues highlighted during my investigation I would be more than happy to discuss this with the site and explore the various options to resolve this but until then we will need to follow our statutory nuisance investigation procedure.

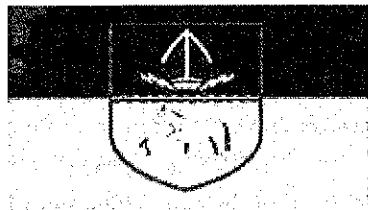
We can install the noise equipment with you for a week at a time and it should be available soon if you would like it?

I have spoken to Planning Enforcement concerning the hedge.

Christopher Smith
Environmental Health Officer (Domestic) – MCIEH, CEnvH, Dip (IoA)
East Cambridgeshire District Council
The Grange
Nutholt Lane
Ely
Cambridgeshire
CB7 4EE
01353 665555



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Homes for Ukraine Scheme



From: mike.starnes@ntlworld.com <mike.starnes@ntlworld.com>
Sent: 11 April 2023 07:31
To: Christopher Smith <Christopher.Smith@eastcambs.gov.uk>
Cc: 'Matthew Dunling' <mdunling@btinternet.com>; 'Roger Osborn' <roger.g.osborn@googlemail.com>; Burwell Parish Council (SMTP) <burwellpc@burwellparishcouncil.gov.uk>; jane.starnes@ntlworld.com
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Burwell Battery Storage Facility 17/02205/FUL

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Hi Christopher,

Thanks for the feedback from the Scientific Officer. I am pleased to see that he agrees that the issues raised are serious and should be further considered. It would be good to know what follow up action the Planning Department and Planning Inspectorate have taken, particularly as two additional battery sites have planning approval on Weirs Drove.

With regard to the noise from the existing Battery Storage facility I have been subjectively monitoring it for the last two weeks but over this period it has been relatively quiet, somewhere around 50% of the worst days and although a constant background fan drone we can live with it if this really is a typical level. However this morning (11th April) at 06:00 the noise was back to an intrusive level again.

You may recall that during our previous discussions the same happened at this time last year. I am not sure if the noise reduction is a seasonal issue (more foliage on trees or less loading on the batteries as electrical demand reduces) or due to atmospheric issues. There has been a lot of work carried out on the installation recently so this may be a factor as well.

The problem with carrying out ad hoc sound level readings is that without understanding the operating regime of the site these readings may be made at a quiet period of low demand or other factors that reduce the noise.

The basic problem with this site is that we do not have an independently validated noise survey that can act as a benchmark of what should be expected and, more to the point, permitted under the Planning Conditions. As I pointed out to the Planning Officer, before Condition 9 was discharged, the developers Noise Survey was fundamentally flawed. However my comments fell on deaf ears (no pun intended!).

My detailed comments are a matter of record on the ECDC planning department website but in summary the main issues are:

- a. It is not true to say that the "rated level of noise falls below the typical background sound levels". It is often the dominant noise in a number of "receptor" locations.
- b. It appears that the only offsite noise reading was taken at NMP2 (150m east of the site). The assessed noise at "receptors" has been **derived by calculation and not actual readings**.
- c. There is no evidence that the storage cubicles used for assessing on site actual readings **were running at full load/fan velocity**. (As we have now established the noise output is variable in normal operation)
- d. The assessments were based on 10 units running. It appears that in practice all 15 units are normally running so **the assessment will be a significant under estimate**.
- e. The assessment makes an allowance for the attenuation provided by the acoustic fence. The fence does not protect the whole site and the additional hedge has completely died
- f. The actual reading at NMP2 is completely irrelevant to the noise being emitted in the direction of Hythe Lane, Merton Close and Hythe Close. Therefore **the report has no accurate or valid assessment of noise in these areas**. I would also add that the new "mobile home" development on Weirs Drove is in line with the open side of the facility and no attenuation is provided or measurements taken in this direction.
- g. No representatives from ECDC were present during the noise survey (they declined an offer to attend).

As regards the way forward my suggestion would be:

1. Carry out a new noise survey with the noise measured at actual receptor points (not interpolated) and the battery storage under maximum load. Receptor locations to be agreed with ECDC, Burwell Parish Council and residents. This survey could be used as a benchmark should noise increase in future due to a change in operating procedures or worn equipment
2. Enforce the planning condition for a hedge to be planted, and maintained, on the earth bank surrounding the installation. This will reduce the noise and provide visual screening to what is an eyesore in a rural area.
3. Carry forward the lessons learnt to the two additional installations that have been approved in this area.

Finally our greatest concern is the cumulative impact on noise when the additional two Battery Sites on Weirs Drove (which have Planning Permission) are commissioned, particularly if planning conditions are not rigorously monitored and enforced.

Best Regards

Mike Starnes

From: Christopher Smith <Christopher.Smith@eastcambs.gov.uk>
Sent: Thursday, April 6, 2023 10:57 AM
To: mike.starnes@ntlworld.com
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Burwell Battery Storage Facility 17/02205/FUL

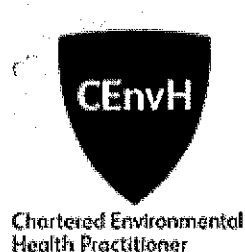
Hi Mike,

I've spoken to our Scientific Officer and he has reminded me that he did send a response (my apologies if I didn't send this on to you at the time) –

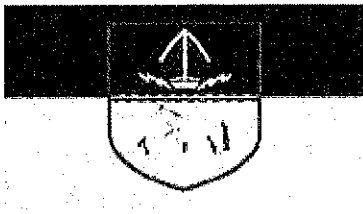
"Thank you for bringing to our attention the report by Fordham et al. The report raises some very important issues regarding the safety and regulation of BESS facilities which require serious consideration. We are not able to confirm whether these risks have been addressed as part of the planning process or whether Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Services are aware of the risk and have developed appropriate response plans as we are not involved in this process. However, we will raise these concerns with our planning department and we will recommend that these concerns are brought to the attention of the Planning Inspectorate."

Our noise equipment is currently deployed elsewhere but I will be in touch as soon as it is available to install with you.

Christopher Smith
Environmental Health Officer (Domestic) – MCIEH, CEnvH, Dip (IoA)
East Cambridgeshire District Council
The Grange
Nutholt Lane
Ely
Cambridgeshire
CB7 4EE
01353 665555



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Homes for Ukraine Scheme



From: mike.starnes@ntlworld.com <mike.starnes@ntlworld.com>
Sent: 24 March 2023 14:05
To: Christopher Smith <Christopher.Smith@eastcambs.gov.uk>
Cc: 'Matthew Dunling' <mdunling@btinternet.com>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Burwell Battery Storage Facility 17/02205/FUL

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Hi Christopher,

Thanks for getting the ball rolling.

With regard to the noise assessment I agree that the planning condition was for below background at the noise receptors. However as I have previously pointed out to the Planning Officers, the Consultants report upon which the Planning Officer discharged the condition was fundamentally flawed. The receptor locations did not reflect populated areas, many readings were derived by interpolation and there was no evidence that the installation was running at full capacity when the readings were taken. This was all pointed out to the Planning Officer before she discharged this condition. In simplistic terms I believe that if the noise is below background at "Receptors" we should not be able to hear it outside our front doors (or in the house at night for that matter!)

Please see attached notes I prepared for a Burwell Parish Council meeting attended by Councillor David Brown which expands on these points. The only material changes since I prepared these notes is that fencing has been erected at the entrance (but this has made little difference) and all the perimeter hedging has died.

I have also just seen the note from Rachel McKenzie, Planning Enforcement Officer. Needless to say I am absolutely dismayed that there are no records of complaints concerning this site. I have correspondence with the Planning Officers, Councillor David Brown and yourself spelling out the concerns. Indeed I believe you also referred it back to the Planning Team at the time. I will be replying to Rachel to set the record straight!!

Thanks again

Mike Starnes

From: Christopher Smith <Christopher.Smith@eastcambs.gov.uk>
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2023 12:14 PM
To: mike.starnes@ntlworld.com
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Burwell Battery Storage Facility 17/02205/FUL

Hi Mike,

That's all been received. I will get the letters sent out today.

I've had a look at the noise condition attached to the site and the noise to not exceed background is to be assessed at sensitive receptor locations (residential dwellings) and was not seeking for the site to be below background at the roads/paths which pass the site.

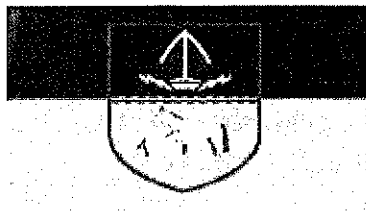
Our Scientific Officer is out of the office until the 3rd April (as am I from this afternoon) but I've emailed him asking for him to contact you on his return to discuss the emissions.

I'd be happy to discuss any of this in greater detail with you on my return.

Christopher Smith
Environmental Health Officer (Domestic) – MCIEH, CEnvH, Dip (IoA)
East Cambridgeshire District Council
The Grange
Nutholt Lane
Ely
Cambridgeshire
CB7 4EE
01353 665555



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Homes for Ukraine Scheme



From: mike.starnes@ntlworld.com <mike.starnes@ntlworld.com>
Sent: 24 March 2023 07:01
To: Christopher Smith <Christopher.Smith@eastcambs.gov.uk>
Cc: 'Matthew Dunling' <mdunling@btinternet.com>; Burwell Parish Council (SMTP) <burwellpc@burwellparishcouncil.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Burwell Battery Storage Facility 17/02205/FUL

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Hi Christopher,

Many thanks for your quick reply, much appreciated.

We let the trail go cold at the time as the noise did seem (subjectively) to be less intrusive for a while. But now it seems to be back to the original levels I would like to take you up on your offer to investigate as outlined.

I note that you have sent details on to the Planning Enforcement team and I await their response with interest. I raised the noncompliance issues with them several times but never received any satisfactory replies. To my mind the issue is quite simple, the planning condition was that emitted noise was to be below local background levels. You only have to walk past the site to determine this is not the case.

I also note that the advice on complaints is to pass them on to the site operator. Matthew Dunling has done this on a couple of occasions but not received a reply. Perhaps council intervention will help with this?

My (and other residents) biggest concern is the cumulative impact of the future battery installations if they are allowed to emit similar noise levels.

Finally did you ever get a reply from the Scientific Officer on the potential of fire and toxic emissions from the site (your e-mail of 28th March 2022) refers.

Thanks once again for your support

Regards

Mike Starnes

From: Christopher Smith <Christopher.Smith@eastcambs.gov.uk>
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 3:59 PM
To: mike.starnes@ntlworld.com
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Burwell Battery Storage Facility 17/02205/FUL

Hi Mike,

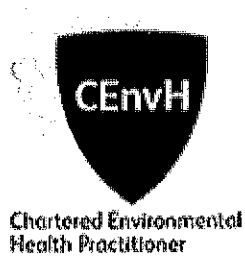
I'm sorry to hear that this is still causing you problems. I have forwarded your email to our Planning Enforcement team as they are responsible for investigating/enforcing any potential breach of planning conditions.

With regard to the noise, I am happy to look in to this as described in my email to you on the 28th March 2022. Any findings during this investigation will be shared with Planning Enforcement if relevant.

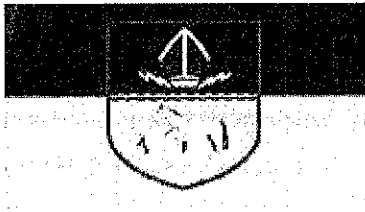
Please let me know if you would like to proceed.

Christopher Smith
Environmental Health Officer (Domestic) – MCIEH, CEnvH, Dip (IoA)

East Cambridgeshire District Council
The Grange
Nutholt Lane
Ely
Cambridgeshire
CB7 4EE
01353 665555



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Homes for Ukraine Scheme



From: mike.starnes@ntlworld.com <mike.starnes@ntlworld.com>
Sent: 23 March 2023 15:44
To: Christopher Smith <Christopher.Smith@eastcambs.gov.uk>
Cc: 'Matthew Dunling' <mdunling@btinternet.com>; Burwell Parish Council (SMTP) <burwellpc@burwellparishcouncil.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Burwell Battery Storage Facility 17/02205/FUL

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Hi Christopher,

I have just been sent a copy of an e-mail sent to you by Matthew Dunling about the Battery Storage Facility in Weirs Drove, Burwell.

I thought it might be useful to send you the correspondence (see below) that we had about this facility a couple of years back to save you searching.

The bottom line is that this facility is still emitting 24/7 noise which is way above the local background noise levels (a planning condition is that it had to be below background levels). In addition the planted hedge which was meant to act as a sound barrier has completely died (again a planning condition).

Also the issues regarding a potential explosion/fire risk have remained unanswered.

At the time of our complaints to SMS the noise did seem to reduce but recently has got worse again. Not sure if this is due to a different operating regime (after complaints reduced) or simply due to wear and tear on the fans.

My biggest concern is the noise pollution that will be caused when the two additional adjacent facilities are completed particularly if planning conditions are not enforced. (Both of these have planning consent)

I would be grateful for your views on the way forward

Many thanks

Mike Starnes
9 Hythe Close
Burwell
Cambridge
CB25 0EZ

From: Christopher Smith <Christopher.Smith@eastcambs.gov.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2022 11:36 AM
To: 'mike.starnes@ntlworld.com' <mike.starnes@ntlworld.com>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Burwell Battery Storage Facility 17/02205/FUL

Hi Mike,

Thanks for your email and providing me with a contact at SMS. I will contact them today.

Christopher Smith
Environmental Health Technical Officer (Domestic) – MCIEH, Dip (IoA)
East Cambridgeshire District Council
The Grange
Nutholt Lane
Ely
Cambridgeshire
CB7 4EE
01353 665555

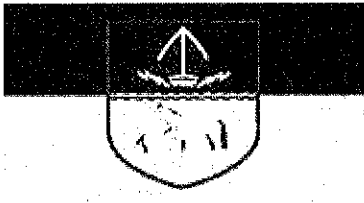
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<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DPBDX3H>

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From: mike.starnes@ntlworld.com <mike.starnes@ntlworld.com>
Sent: 30 March 2022 09:31
To: Christopher Smith <Christopher.Smith@eastcambs.gov.uk>
Cc: Burwell Parish Council (SMTP) <burwellpc@burwellparishcouncil.gov.uk>; 'Roger Osborn' <roger.g.osborn@googlemail.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Burwell Battery Storage Facility 17/02205/FUL

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Hi Christopher,

Thanks for your quick and comprehensive reply which is much appreciated. I must first say it is disappointing that you were not given the opportunity to review my (and other residents) objections to Conditions 8 and 9 being discharged. Our comments demonstrated that at that time the noise output was well above the limits set by ECDC.

Thank you for the offer to follow up on our complaints. Both myself and Mr Osborn have already complained directly to SMS (Lily.Coles@sms-plc.com - see attached e-mail). We initially got a holding reply and then a week later a proposal to plant hedging on the earth bund and add acoustic screening across the open entrance. The hedge planting has now been completed but there is no sign of additional screening. They clearly have not complied with Clause 5.6.1 of the Noise Management Plan, unless a holding reply is deemed compliance.

As previously noted the noise output from the facility was significantly reduced on 26th February and has remained at a lower level since. While still above background noise levels it is tolerable. However our concern is that this is only a temporary reduction, possibly due to complaints or maintenance/repair. Mr Osborn wrote to SMS on the 3rd March asking if the reduction in noise was permanent but has not received a reply. The lack of any confirmation from SMS makes us suspicious that the reduction in noise is indeed temporary.

I am not sure that keeping a daily log of the noise over a two week period will help while noise output is reduced but we will certainly note and record any increase in noise output.

Could I suggest the following as a way forward:

1. ECDC write to SMS and seek formal confirmation that the facility is currently operating in its normal operating condition. Hopefully you will have more influence to force a response than ourselves.
2. If they do confirm that this is the steady state condition, SMS are requested to provide a new independent report of noise levels to act as a benchmark. Ideally these measurements should be witnessed by ECDC
3. Any increase in noise output in the future can then be objectively compared to the benchmark to enforce corrective action.

I would add here that Yvonne Rix at Burwell Parish Council has been very helpful in supporting residents concerns and I believe has also sought information from SMS, but I am not aware that any answers have been received.

I am sure that you will appreciate that local residents are extremely concerned about the increased noise nuisance when all 3 Battery Storage Facilities are fully operational. This makes it imperative that the ECDC Planning Conditions for the first facility are seen to be enforced in order to act as a benchmark as to what will be accepted in the future projects.

With regard to the lack of compliance with the CEMP we did report the noise nuisance from the large generators at the time but no action was taken. The horse has bolted on the first installation but it is hoped that the CEMP's (which have the same wording) will be enforced during construction of the future facilities.

Thankyou also for following up on the concerns re the fire and toxic fume risk. Again we are very concerned about the potential for accidents when all facilities are operational. We await the response from the Scientific Officer with interest.

Thanks once again for your assistance

Mike Starnes

Tel 07710 256660

From: Christopher Smith <Christopher.Smith@eastcambs.gov.uk>

Sent: 28 March 2022 11:34

To: 'mike.starnes@ntlworld.com' <mike.starnes@ntlworld.com>

Subject: RE: Burwell Battery Storage Facility 17/02205/FUL

Hi Mike,

Thank you for getting in touch. I'm sorry that you are experiencing a noise issue from this site.

To answer your questions -

- 3) *"Why was the Noise report accepted by ECDC at face value allowing conditions 9 and 10 to be discharged without question? This is especially concerning in view of the fact that complaints about excessive noise had been submitted to ECDC (and acknowledged) prior to the report being approved. (These written objections to discharging the conditions are on the planning portal)"*

I ask for NIAs to be submitted in order to help inform my consultee responses as it is not possible to undertake our own independent assessments for every planning application we receive. In this instance I was not made aware of any noise complaints being received until after the conditions had been discharged by the Planning Officer.

- 4) *"The noise report states at para 5.6.1 "If a complaint is received from a local resident, an investigation shall be instigated within one working day....." Was this done as we have had no feedback from such an investigation."*

I have not contacted the site but have advised our Planning Team and the Parish Council of Section 5.6.1 of the Noise Management Plan and advised them to direct complainants to the site operator. I would also be

happy to contact them on your behalf if you are happy to go ahead with the nuisance investigation process outlined below.

- 5) *"The noise output was suddenly reduced on 26th February.*
a. *Is this reduction due to a change in operating procedures?*
b. *Or is it because of cubicles being temporarily off line for maintenance or repair?"*

I do not have the answers to these questions but I would also be happy to contact them on your behalf if you are happy to go ahead with the nuisance investigation process outlined below.

"We have sought assurance from SMS that the recent reduction in noise is permanent but have had no reply. Maybe this can be followed up by ECDC in order to seek a formal, and recorded, statement from SMS that the current noise levels will not be exceeded?"

I would be happy to contact them on your behalf if you are happy to go ahead with the nuisance investigation process outlined below

"Moving forward two more Battery Storage Facilities of similar size have been approved for construction in the same area. Any review of the noise output from the first facility should take into account the impact of the noise output when the installation is effectively trebled in size."

Noted

"I also noted during the construction of the first facility that 3 large diesel generators were brought in during the commissioning phase of the first installation. These were a significant noise nuisance over a wide area of the village for several weeks. This was in direct contravention of the approved Construction Environmental Management Plan which stated that use of generators should be avoided by direct connection of the site to the electrical supply network. I would hope that ECDC will take steps to ensure that the noise output will be better controlled during construction, commissioning and operation on the follow on projects."

If there are any breaches of a CEMP or conditions attached to a planning permission I would encourage you to report this to our Planning Enforcement team who are responsible for enforcing these elements.

"Finally there are serious concerns being expressed by scientific experts over the fire risk and potential toxic emissions that this could produce. Both Mr Osborn and myself have raised these issues with Councillor Brown and I believe these have been passed onto the EHO for comment. (see report here https://www.researchgate.net/publication/359031670_Safety_of_Grid_Scale_Lithium-ion_Battery_Energy_Storage_Systems). Can you confirm that these risks have been addressed as part of the planning process and that Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Services are aware of the risk and have developed appropriate response plans?"

I have asked our Scientific Officer to provide comment on this. He is out of the office until tomorrow but I will provide you with a response when I have it.

The powers we have to deal with noise fall under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and we have to establish that a statutory nuisance is taking place. This means we need to prove that the noise is unreasonably and substantially interfering with the use or enjoyment of your property and there are many factors taken into consideration when assessing this.

The way in which we investigate is as follows:

1. We write to the subject to inform them that a complaint has been made and that we may be monitoring them for the next 3 months (This is a legal requirement whenever monitoring may take place but we do not give away the complainant's identity or the exact dates when monitoring will occur).
2. We send diary sheets to yourself which you need to return to us after a two week period (recording how and when the noise is affecting you). We can now also offer the use of the Noise App where you can download an app on to your phone to submit noise recordings to us.

3. We will then assess the sheets and determine the next course of action which is likely to be either installing noise equipment or officers visiting to undertake monitoring.

If officers consider a statutory nuisance is occurring an abatement notice will be served requiring appropriate measures to be taken to abate the nuisance.

Ultimately we are trying to gather enough evidence to convince a court that a statutory nuisance is present. We will always try to resolve the issue informally but if the case does go to court you will be required to give evidence, and diary sheets are an important part of this.

In this instance the investigation would also establish if planning permission is being adhered to.

I will wait to hear that you are happy with this course of action before I send out any letters.

Christopher Smith

Environmental Health Technical Officer (Domestic) – MCIEH, Dip (IoA)

East Cambridgeshire District Council

The Grange

Nutholt Lane

Ely

Cambridgeshire

CB7 4EE

01353 665555

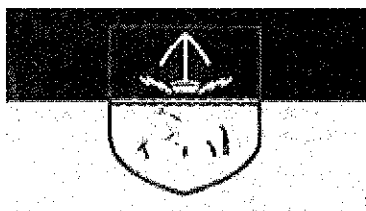
We would welcome your feedback so that we can improve our service. Please complete the quick 4 question survey below:-

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DPBDX3H>

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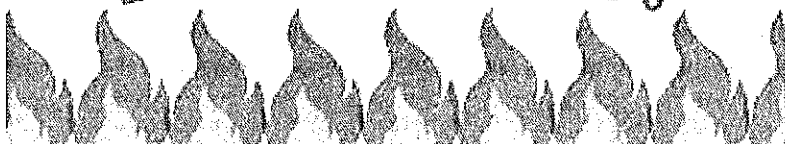
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**"Burn Voyage" to
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From: mike.starnes@ntlworld.com <mike.starnes@ntlworld.com>

Sent: 28 March 2022 08:44

To: Christopher Smith <Christopher.Smith@eastcambs.gov.uk>

Cc: 'Roger Osborn' <roger.g.osborn@googlemail.com>; Burwell Parish Council (SMTP) <burwellpc@burwellparishcouncil.gov.uk>; David Brown Cllr <David.Brown@eastcambs.gov.uk>; jane.starnes@ntlworld.com

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Burwell Battery Storage Facility 17/02205/FUL

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Dear Mr Smith,

Thankyou for offering to investigate the noise issues at the recently completed Burwell Battery Storage Facility.

I have previously raised my concerns with the ECDC Planning Dept, Burwell Parish Council, Councillor Brown and SMS (the facility operators). I believe our concerns have been passed on to you by Councillor Brown and Yvonne Rix (BPC) but for completeness I have summarized below the various issues and the current situation:

- 1) Noise became obtrusive after Christmas – **ie after the noise survey was carried out**. It was the dominant noise source completely destroying the previous quiet rural nature of the sound environment in the area. The noise was particularly intrusive at night and early morning.
- 2) The Noise Report submitted to ECDC in order to Discharge Planning Conditions is misleading at best.
 - a. It appears that the assessed noise at “receptors” has been derived by calculation **and not actual noise measurements**.
 - b. There is no evidence that the running storage cubicles used for assessing on site readings were running at full load/fan velocity.
 - c. The assessments were based on 10 units running. It appears that in practice all 15 units are normally running so the assessment will be an under estimate.
 - d. The assessment makes an allowance for the attenuation provided by the acoustic fence. This completely ignores the fact that there is no fencing or attenuation at the entrance. The noise grid maps and the predicted noise in the Hythe Lane, Merton Close, Hythe Close areas are therefore a significant underestimate.
 - e. The overall assessment that the noise output is below background levels is clearly (and audibly) not true.
- 3) Why was the Noise report accepted by ECDC at face value allowing conditions 9 and 10 to be discharged without question? This is especially concerning in view of the fact that complaints about excessive noise had been submitted to ECDC (and acknowledged) prior to the report being approved. (These written objections to discharging the conditions are on the planning portal)
- 4) The noise report states at para 5.6.1 “If a complaint is received from a local resident, an investigation shall be instigated within one working day.....” Was this done as we have had no feedback from such an investigation.
- 5) The noise output was suddenly reduced on 26th February.
 - a. Is this reduction due to a change in operating procedures?
 - b. Or is it because of cubicles being temporarily off line for maintenance or repair?

We have sought assurance from SMS that the recent reduction in noise is permanent but have had no reply. Maybe this can be followed up by ECDC in order to seek a formal, and recorded, statement from SMS that the current noise levels will not be exceeded?

Moving forward two more Battery Storage Facilities of similar size have been approved for construction in the same area. Any review of the noise output from the first facility should take into account the impact of the noise output when the installation is effectively trebled in size.

I also noted during the construction of the first facility that 3 large diesel generators were brought in during the commissioning phase of the first installation. These were a significant noise nuisance over a wide area of the village for several weeks. This was in direct contravention of the approved Construction Environmental Management Plan which stated that use of generators should be avoided by direct connection of the site to the electrical supply network. I would hope that ECDC will take steps to ensure that the noise output will be better controlled during construction, commissioning and operation on the follow on projects.

Finally there are serious concerns being expressed by scientific experts over the fire risk and potential toxic emissions that this could produce. Both Mr Osborn and myself have raised these issues with Councillor Brown and I believe these have been passed onto the EHO for comment. (see report here https://www.researchgate.net/publication/359031670_Safety_of_Grid_Scale_Lithium-ion_Battery_Energy_Storage_Systems). Can you confirm that these risks have been addressed as part of the planning process and that Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service are aware of the risk and have developed appropriate response plans?

Thank you for your assistance.

Mike Starnes

9 Hythe Close
Burwell
Cambridge
CB25 0EZ

Tel 07710 256660

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