

Housing

Central government is pressing London–Cambridge–Peterborough as a growth area.

Cambourne and Northstowe are new developments and may be expanded beyond their current projected size. Arbury is being expanded. Marshall's airfield, Trumpington and Huntingdon Road are all being considered for development. When these developments are completed, around 2025, South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City will have 48,500 extra homes and some 120,000 more people.

The developers of Cambourne and Northstowe aim to provide 30% to 35% social housing for rent or shared ownership by housing associations, for affordable housing and for key worker homes.

The potential for more houses, either for sale or for economic rental, within Swavesey appears limited (see 1.5). South Cambridgeshire District Council forecasts that its spending on council housing will soon exceed income, and it is consulting tenants about transferring its housing stock to a housing association.

Implication: If development in Swavesey is limited, local opportunities to buy or rent will be predominantly in Northstowe. Further housing development around Swavesey could erode the rural setting of Swavesey.

Business development

Buckingway Business Park, now substantially complete, and Cambridge Services (outside the parish) offer employment opportunities, but many businesses transferred here with their own key workers. Northstowe, Cambourne and Huntingdon Road are designed to provide business and office space. Marshall's has an option to develop land next to Buckingway Business Park and is making a detailed planning application.

Implication: Business and industrial development locally could provide jobs, but could also erode Swavesey's rural setting and increase the load on the road system.

Transport developments

The A14 is already overloaded and there is a lack of local feeder roads into Cambridge. Plans have been announced to upgrade the A14 between Ellington and Fen Ditton, and construction is planned to start in 2010.

The Guided Busway is intended to improve links to St Ives and to Cambridge and Trumpington from 2009, and cycle routes are to be improved.

Implication: Traffic on the A14 from the North and Midlands to the south-east and the continent will continue to grow, and more housing and business development will add to the pressure on local transport links. Cambridgeshire County Council predicts that the Guided Bus will be quicker than current bus routes, will reduce the traffic impact of Northstowe and will divert traffic from the A14, but it could bring more local congestion and add to pressure for housing development.



Great Ouse flood plain management

The Environment Agency has carried out work to protect St Ives and St Neots against flooding, which may increase river flows near Swavesey. Development at Northstowe will increase surface and foul water runoff through Swavesey Main Drain.

Implication: There are fears that increased river flows and discharges from Northstowe will exacerbate flood risks in Fen Drayton and Swavesey. The occurrence of a 'one in one hundred year flood', which would affect homes in Swavesey, seems increasingly likely with climate change.

