

Questions for forthcoming Northstowe Education Meeting

1. Has a full, binding schedule of educational site development been made to ensure Northstowe has necessary school places to meet the demands of its inhabitants at all times during every phase of development? If not, when will this be produced?
 - a) What financial penalties will be imposed on the developers if they fail to keep to this schedule?
2. Will there be powers in effect to stop the developers selling properties if there are insufficient educational places available to potential buyers?
3. At what stage will Longstanton pupils fall into the catchment area for Northstowe and hence lose entitlement to attend Swavesey Village College?
4. Will the temporary secondary school admission be for just year 7 (meaning the majority of pupils will have to attend elsewhere, creating more pressure for local in-demand schools) or include other years (meaning some pupils will be expected to move school during their GCSEs or even take them at the primary school)?
5. Clearly, the secondary school planned under the development is insufficient for Northstowe's needs (providing 600 places against projections of 1800 pupils). The school will therefore need to be massively extended. As the developers have refused to pay for a school of sufficient size for their development, where will this money come from?
6. In Cambridgeshire County Council Response to Northstowe Phase 1 Outline Planning Permission it was stated that a total of 34.04ha of unencumbered land is required for education. The developer's plans refer ambiguously to 23 or 27.4ha. Have the developers committed to providing a minimum of the full 34.04ha?
7. Will pupils of the temporary school be regularly transported between the temporary school and Swavesey Village College?
 - a) If so, will this transport take place during lessons (meaning a loss of around 20 minutes education for every round trip) or will these pupils be expected to sacrifice their own break time?
 - b) If not, how will lessons requiring dedicated facilities (labs, workshops, kitchens, sports facilities etc.) be provided at the temporary school?
8. Finally, on a non-technical point, do you feel it acceptable for young people to spend the majority of their secondary school education in temporary accommodation at a primary school, especially considering the psychological effect when mixing with peers from local secondary schools and the lack of belonging from being assigned to a temporary situation with no certain future?