

## CHAIR'S REPORT MAY 2026

### **NEWLANDS LOGISTICAL BUSINESS PARK**

At the April Council Meeting I advised Members of the letter that I had sent to National Highways regarding the planning application for the development at Brookfield Farm, Ermine Street, known as Newlands Park.

We have received the following reply:

“National Highways proactively engaged with the applicant throughout the project to ensure that the Transport assessment appropriately assessed the SRN. The conclusion of this assessment has resulted in a recommendation for a minor mitigation scheme at the Brampton Hut Interchange. The modelling has been reviewed by our external consultants who concluded that the modelling accurately reflects the junction and the proposed mitigation appropriately mitigates the development traffic impacts.

Although Buckden Roundabout was not modelled individually, consideration has been given to the distribution of vehicles from the proposed development. When considering the scale of peak period trip generation and distribution, including vehicles redistributing to the A14, National Highways concluded further assessments of this junction would not be justified. Please note that developers can only be obligated to mitigate impacts from the development. National Highways supports the applicant's suggestion to commit to an Operational Master Plan, which would be secured by condition. The plan seeks to agree to measures to manage HGV movements during peak periods and additional information regarding HGV routing, National Highways expect to be a statutory consultee to the discharge of condition application for this plan.

Given the comments above, and no additional information being submitted since the last committee meeting, I confirm that National Highways position on this application remains as a conditional response”

### **PAXTON PITS LIAISON MEETING**

As Caroline was away, I attended the regular liaison meeting hosted by the operators of the Paxton Pits. Although they wish to continue operations for longer than originally anticipated, the final phase of excavations should be completed by late summer/early autumn. They will then be continuing to bring in material to reinstate the ground, returning some to agricultural use but also creating ponds and wetlands. The main cause for the delay has been the lack of material coming onto the site, but they do hope to have completed everything by 2032. One of the improvements facing delays is for better footpaths and cycleways, but I am impressed by the positive attitude towards the community coming from the operators, particularly their enthusiasm for nature and wildlife.

We have also been promised assistance regarding the revision and re-printing of our footpaths map, and this is being pursued by Caroline.

### **GREAT OUSE VALLEY TRUST**

I recently attended the AGM of the Great Ouse Valley Trust, and after the formal business there was a presentation updating everyone on the progress of a Business Case for Self-Designation of The Great Ouse Heritage Landscape.

The work has been funded jointly by The Trust and Huntingdonshire District Council, with the aim of recognising and managing the Great Ouse Valley and Washes as one cohesive landscape, ensuring that its assets are protected and enhanced for future generations.

The full report, which is just over 50 pages long, can be found through the Great Ouse Valley Trust's website at <https://greatousevalleytrust.org.uk/our-work/national-landscape/>

### **NIGEL KING**

Nigel has decided to retire after 6 years as one of our two groundstaff. He has served the Council and the village well during that time and we wish him well. We are now seeking a replacement.