

# PRESS RELEASE

Immediate release

1 August 2008 - 10.00

## Hanley Grange Transport strategy “confusing” and fails to meet targets for an eco-town

Campaigners against Hanley Grange, the Tesco-backed proposed eco-town at Hinxton in Cambridgeshire, have again asked developers to withdraw their proposal after an eco-challenge panel:

- described their transport strategy as “confusing”
- questioned the developers’ claims on potential employment in the area, and
- whether the housing is in fact needed in the area.

Julie Redfern, chair of the Stop Hanley Grange campaign explained that developers had previously hinted at providing a link to the new Cambridgeshire guided bus system, but this has now been transformed into the “Hanley Bus” travelling on already congested roads into Cambridge and to the local Whittlesford Parkway Station. “I wouldn’t have been surprised if Tesco had tried to cover up the fact that this development runs the risk of becoming a London commuter town,” she said. “Instead they have blatantly included, in their example of a typical family living on site, a father who commutes to London. This shows once again that the idea of a sustainable, self-supporting community is of no importance to their plans.”

The availability of up to date plans was challenged by Cambridgeshire County Councillor Tim Stone, particularly given the change in numbers of houses proposed for the site following the Wellcome Trust’s withdrawal from the scheme. “We have just had an update on the proposed masterplan for the scheme which now shows 6,700 houses, built at a density of fifty per hectare. This is the maximum density permitted under the government’s density guidelines and will mean people literally living on top of each other, some in blocks of flats up to five storeys high. None of this bears any resemblance to the plans we were shown before the 30 June deadline. Given that the earlier consultation was for a bigger scheme, designed to a higher eco-standard we feel that we have been victims of gross misrepresentation. This is fundamentally unfair.”

Brian McCarthy described the eco challenge panel’s comments as a useful unveiling of the key weaknesses behind the scheme. “Even the developers know that this speculative plan just doesn’t work in this location. It’s too far out of Cambridge, there are no jobs in the area, and it will become a wasteland populated by London commuters and Stansted workers,” he explained. “Tesco should listen to the eco challenge specialists, and withdraw”.

ENDS

Notes for editors:

1. Hanley Grange is one of 15 proposed sites for an Eco Town, now reduced to 12.
2. 6,500 houses + shops, schools and offices would be built on a Greenfield site in South Cambridgeshire between Cambridge and Saffron Walden.
3. Cambridgeshire County Council, South Cambs District Council, Cambridge Horizons, 15 Parish Councils and thousands of local people oppose the plan.
4. The eco towns progress report published on 24 July can be found at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/ecotownsprogressreport>
5. The eco challenge panel report can be found at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/ecotownschallenge>
6. The revised master plan for the scheme has been published by Tesco on its website [http://hanleygrange.com/pdfs/HG\\_Prospectus.pdf](http://hanleygrange.com/pdfs/HG_Prospectus.pdf)

Further details from:

Tim Stone 01223 836 527  
Julie Redfern 07973 113320  
Brian McCarthy 07785 391017

Stop Hanley Grange Joint Action Group

[www.stophanleygrange.org.uk](http://www.stophanleygrange.org.uk).

