

Late Update To Planning Committee
24/00510/VARM Land North of Cam Drive, Ely

Response received from resident 20:43 14.01.2025

I would like to voice my support for approving the proposed changes.

I don't believe a pub is what our community requires. These days less and less people are drinking, and most cannot afford to drink in pubs. Pubs up and down the country are closing. It does not surprise me that in the 11 years since the original planning permission for the orchard green development no one has come forward to build the pub.

Approximately half a mile from the site, which is only a short walk away, exists the Isle of Ely pub, 3 restaurants, 4 fast food restaurants, and a café. I would say this sufficiently meets local demand. The walk will be even shorter once the proposed footpaths and cycle ways are completed. Ely is already well serviced for restaurants and pubs, what we need more of is stores and other community facilities.

I find it absurd that it was ever approved to build a pub only a few hundred meters away from a primary school. I don't think this is the kind of example we wish to set our children.

I believe the new proposals of a nursery etc. better meets the demands of our community.

Ely and District CAMRA view on changes to Cam Drive development

We are aware that the date for formal submissions passed, but ask that you all enabled in some way these views to form part of the discussion of this planning application. Like many voluntary organisations we are in a bit of turbulence in terms of our committee etc, so are not as efficient as we would like to be, but we will get there.

Here is the submission:

Ely and District CAMRA note that the original plan for the development of the area around Cam Drive included a pub, which is intended to be a key community asset, in which people can meet and interact in this new community. As a branch we very much welcomed the inclusion of a pub and as an organisation CAMRA knows that pubs are central to healthy communities, so is committed to high quality public house development in house building enterprises of this scale.

Our branch also recognise the arguments made by the developers in relation to the need to secure an investor to build the pub and that they wish to proceed forthwith with the critical infrastructure needed by residents, including a local shop. Notwithstanding this, our branch considers that removing the pub from the site would be a mistake which would remove an essential amenity that will serve residents well for decades to come.

Our branch also notes that allowing developers to remove pubs from site plans risks setting a precedent that could be used to ask for similar changes to other developments. The developer secured permission to build because they wished to build a community and a community needs a pub.

Our branch further notes that an argument has been put forward that the fact the 'Isle of Ely' pub has been built subsequent to the development at Cam Drive being approved means that a pub is no longer required in the Cam Drive development. The branch considers that the Isle of Ely pub is a very different to a community pub. It is a large food led retail pub that is designed to serve clientele using the entertainment complex and passing trade. The pub in Cam Drive would be a community pub, designed to provide residents with a space to gather.

In summary, while recognising that the arguments put forward by the developers have some validity, CAMRA Ely and District consider that the development at Cam Drive must have a pub to ensure that new community has an essential community amenity, to avoid setting a precedent that developers can remove aspects of approval when they find them difficult to fulfil and to recognise that a community without a pub is diminished socially, economically and culturally.