

Friends of Mitcham's Corner

Cllr Lis Every

Cc: Nicholas Mills

21 April, 2020

Proposed abolition of the Cambridge Joint Area Committee

We are very concerned that there is a proposal by the Cambridgeshire County Council to abolish the Cambridge Joint Area Committee (CJAC). The CJAC is a very important aspect of the democratic process within Cambridge and needs to be retained.

The CJAC is comprised of our local elected City and County Councillors and as such are the people best placed to consider the issues that affect Cambridge City. They are residents of the City, known to all and available to discuss community issues. They have a deep and broad understanding of the myriad local concerns that affect us all in the City on a daily basis, and what the effects of changes to policy and practices can have on local neighbourhoods and the City as a whole.

With this connectivity and knowledge, the CJAC is in a very good position to help resolve City issues and bring informed support to the County Council to aid decision making.

Cambridge is a city of 140,000 residents in numerous neighbourhoods, all with differing concerns and requirements, that also need to interact with each other. The CJAC is vital to this process of interaction and resolution.

Transport issues within Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City have become highly politicised, and the various vested interests have demonstrated that they will circumvent public discussion and oversight in order to achieve their visions. This is precisely the time that a democratic forum like the CJAC is most needed: abolishing it would take away a vital layer of locally focussed decision making.

Friends of Mitcham's Corner represent the aspirations of the local community, with a focus on development and transport issues. We feel that the large-scale highways projects in the north of Cambridge (the A14, Histon Road, Milton Road) are being carried out at the expense of the Mitcham's Corner area, hindering its redevelopment as an 'Opportunity Area'. We must have a voice in this future, and channels like the CJAC must not be closed to us.

Regards

Anne Cooper

Chairman, Friends of Mitcham's Corner