

Some big issues for our sub-region

Cambridgeshire CPRE, September 2016

2030 Vision

for the Cambridge subregion

Workshops on 10 topics in 2011-12

Led by Peter Carolin and Peter Landshoff, with 300 experts:

Economics and technology

Housing 2030

Education and skills

Retail and business

Agriculture and green spaces

Land use

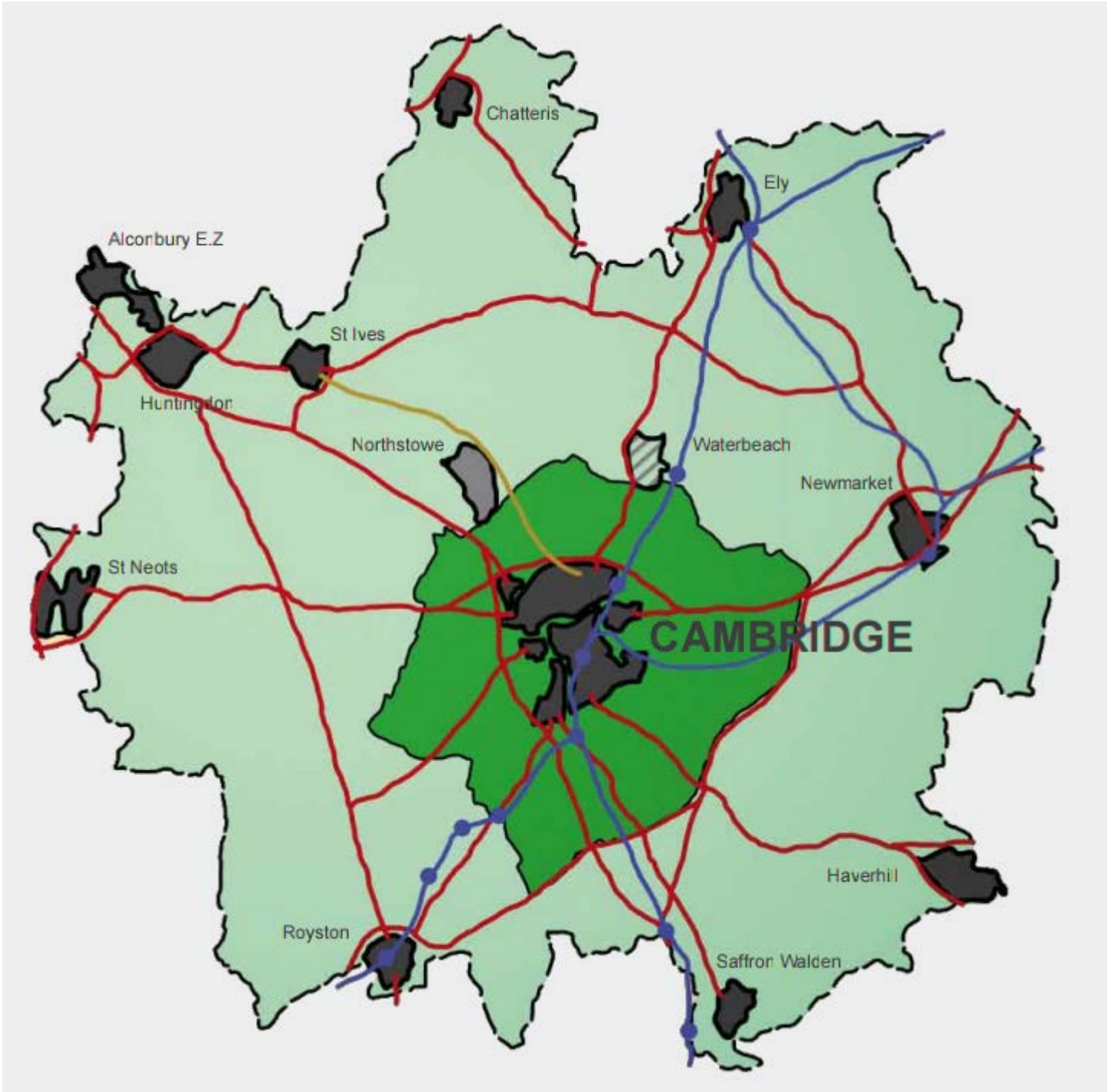
Social cohesion

Culture, leisure and sport

Transport

Energy, water and waste

<http://2030vision.org/>



Questions about our Green Belt

- Is it important for keeping Cambridge a compact city?
- Should we be willing to give up part of it because
 - It is of low quality
 - To allow biomedical research to expand
 - For business to expand
 - To build houses
 - To build a sports village

????



Market Towns

Desperate shortage of affordable houses close to Cambridge

Over four years Cambridge employment has grown by 26%
(Cambridge Ahead)

Number of University postdocs increased from 3200 to 4000 over 4 years (very poorly paid).

AstraZeneca bringing 2500 staff (better paid – unlikely to be happy with Trumpington Meadows). ARM and our biotech campuses aim to double in size.

Royston, Haverhill, Newmarket, Chatteris, Wisbech ...

All rather depressed: could benefit both them and Cambridge by good transport links

Problems with transport



- Rail is hugely expensive to install and maintain – annual subsidy £5 billion
- Government subsidy to Transport for London: £700 million per year – Cambridgeshire bus subsidy £1 million per year
- Tax on petrol brings in £30bn per year to the Treasury

Something has to be done about congestion in Cambridge

Air pollution

Pollution density varies wildly over a short distance – perhaps a factor of 5 on opposite sides of a street

Public Health data attributed 257 deaths in Cambridgeshire in 2010 to Particulate Air Pollution, compared with 34 from Road Traffic Accidents – City Council report

The diesel fiasco -- and are electric and hybrid worse than petrol?



EU Water Framework Directive

The quality of all waterbodies (rivers, lakes and estuaries) must reach 'good ecological status' as soon as possible (with an absolute deadline of 2027).



- Water quality decreasing due to diffuse urban and agricultural pollution and ageing sewerage.
- Declining river flows and over-abstraction of aquifers exacerbated by the planned increase in development and by increasing agriculture yields.
- Fish numbers have declined, due to droughts, floods washing fish downstream, overfishing and poaching.

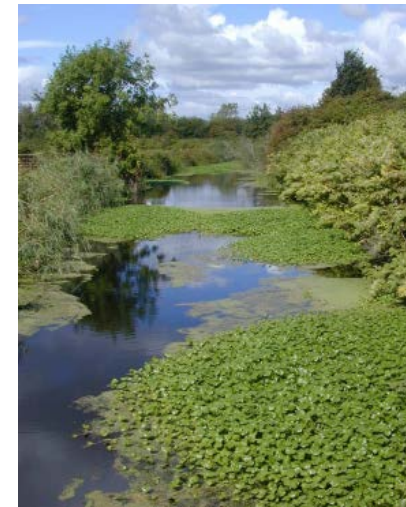
Invasive species – giant hogweed, Himalayan balsam, floating pennywort



Record height:
18 feet
Toxic to the skin



Huge plants
Seeds carried
downstream
Flowers edible



Depletes water
of oxygen
Grows from a
small fragment

Energy: what is the truth?

Renewable Energy Foundation: land-based wind turbines are just a gesture. Should research wave and tidal energy.

David MacKay: if we covered the windiest 20% of the country with turbines, or 5% of the land area with photovoltaic solar farms, the energy generated would only be what is needed for each of us to drive a car 50km.

(<http://www.inference.eng.cam.ac.uk/sustainable/book/tex/sewtha.pdf>)

UK has 12 GW solar panels – it used on average 37 GW in 2013

Should do much more to save energy

Why can't people wear pullovers indoors?

Existing buildings are the main challenge for energy-saving – this is being addressed but too slowly.

Education and skills

“Nobody in schools knows anything about the world of work”

Extreme shortage of people with technical skills:

- work sophisticated farm machinery
- double the expansion of ARM and our biotech campuses
- drive HGVs
- construction



Is it good that this year a record number of students are going to university?

Rescue the NHS from old people

- In our region, life expectancy at birth has been increasing by more than 5 hours a day.
- Three quarters of over 65s have a medical condition. People need from early in life to eat less and more healthily, drink less alcohol, smoke not at all, and take exercise
- Spend on dementia research is £50 million per year, less than a tenth that on cancer, even though the cost to the economy is twice as much



- 40% of people in hospital beds ought not to be there
- Over half of over-75s live alone, many with television their main company. They go to see the GP just to have someone to talk to
- The bus pass is very important
- Need to get more older people engaged in voluntary activities. A main benefit is to themselves.
- Give more thought to design of buildings and communities

**INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF 'THE MARQUE' SCHEME, CHERRY
HINTON ROAD/HILLS ROAD JUNCTION CAMBRIDGE**



**Barry Shaw Associates
February 2015**