

John Vickery: Good evening. Thank you for attending the meeting tonight to listen to Question Time. I've been asked to chair this meeting. I see a few of the Councillors at the back smiling. I'd like to welcome the District Council Candidates, Gavin Clayton, Alison Elcox, Jon Hansford & Roger Hume, and the Parish Council Candidates, Donovan Bangs, Simon Crocker, Suzanne Smith.

I'd like to ask the candidates to introduce themselves:

District Council Candidates

Jon Hansford: I didn't expect to do this, so am very nervous. If I stood on the roof of this building and looked about 400 yards that way, I'd see where I was born. I go back a long way in this area, my father still lives in Bourn, I've got two sisters who live here and am hoping for very low turnout on the day because of the family vote! I've lived in the ward off and on for many years, and lived many years in Africa. I've worked in education for many years and have to support my very young children in the primary school here; my older sons worked in the area and now work elsewhere. I've been a Liberal Democrat for many, many years and go with their philosophy by and large, but hold a number of independent views on a few things they don't support. In case you're wondering about the mark on my forehead, I suffered a head injury yesterday morning – walked towards a house, then walked other way and didn't see the drainpipe, bang, could have been a YouTube sensation. Another time I had my hand trapped in a Cambourne letterbox and dog licking my hand from inside. Then a Lower Cambourne letterbox fell off at my feet. This isn't me. I will sit down and stop being nervous.

Alison Elcox: Thanks to everyone for coming along; I think I met the same letterbox in Lower Cambourne. I've been working in the office in Hardwick for last well over a year now and I've been completely bitten by the politics bug: being able to help people, being able to actually help someone, it's so exciting that people will actually listen; being able actually to achieve something without thinking about why doesn't someone do something, why don't they do it: "they" would be me. It gives me so much satisfaction to be able to do things. We have existing District Councillors: Clayton [Hudson] who is really into Planning as Chair of the Parish Council, Mervyn [Loynes] who lives in Eltisley and is into Planning Enforcement – I've been brought in because I don't fit that mould, that isn't my thing – we don't need another planner, we need someone to look after all the other bits and bobs that need sorting out. I have teenaged children, they know other children in the area, and they all know me. That is what I intend to do, give the children some sort of direction, including the ones coming up, not yet teenagers, the 8-9 year olds. This is why I've been brought in to be part of the team: all three of us have different skills, interests, all three of us together can look after the ward really well.

Roger Hume: I came to Cambourne early 2000 as a resident and very quickly got involved setting up the first Neighbourhood Watch scheme. I then joined up with others on the residents' group organising events such as festivals, firework displays. I was one of the first two elected members of the pre-runner to the Parish Council, which was called MLC: it was a compilation of developers, local councillors and representatives from different organisations. As Cambourne grew those representatives were replaced by more and more residents until they reached the total of 7 when the Parish Council was formed. I've been a Parish Councillor and am currently Vice-Chairman of Cambourne Parish Council. For 5

years I was also clerk to Caldecote Parish Council, so I'm well used to being at South Cambs and I'm no stranger to the processes that go on there. I've been speaking at Planning and Planning appeals for quite a few years and I hope to be able to speak on behalf of residents for the District Council.

Gavin Clayton: Good evening, my name's Gavin Clayton and I'm the Labour Party Candidate. I'm standing for the second time, previously in a by-election, against Clayton my namesake: I was defeated, surely a mistake. [laughter from audience] We came in second place, which surely gave me incentive to stand again. I achieved a 10% increase in the Labour vote, some of this would have happened anyway because when you're in power, as the Liberal Democrats and Tories are finding out, you get that swing, but I'd like to think this has something to do with the changing make-up of Cambourne as the biggest part of the ward. It's why I'm going to keep up a Labour presence, because I think the Council Chamber doesn't reflect the make-up in this ward and it's time to change. The last time I was involved in party politics it was 1979 and I was 14 years old, knocking on doors in Manchester because Margaret Thatcher was standing for election and thought this would be a bad thing for the country. I've worked within community development, arts, and with the disadvantaged for last 10-15 years. I'm currently executive for a small arts & mental health charity in Cambridge. I'm very aware of the pressures coming to bear on these sorts of organisations just as these are being touted as a way to bring services to a number of people. Some of these people are moving into social housing in Cambourne which I welcome. I feel privileged to live in a beautiful, safe, relatively content part of the world. What do communities do? What do individuals and communities do when they live in such privilege? Do we stigmatise the poor or address these issues? We have a relatively high standards of living in this ward so we can take time to help those less advantaged than ourselves – that is why I'm standing.

Parish Council Candidates

Donavan Bangs – some of you may now my from writings in the Cambourne Crier, that I am the pastor of Peacehaven Baptist Church. Why am I standing? There was a need, a vacancy and someone was needed to fill the gap. What would I bring to the community? I do not have a great deal of experience in politics, I could not care less about politics, as politics should not enter into the role of parish councillors whatsoever. It's about the community, it's about people and what needs to be done and what can we do to get it done. Cambourne is a special community, all the knowledge, all the expertise is here to do what we need – there is someone in this area who knows how to do it. As I said, I'm pastor of a church, if there's a need, we say, "Who knows how to fix it?" We as a community should be able to do that with our people instead of going out and spending thousands and thousands and thousands on this that or the other – maybe we have architects here, maybe we have bricklayer, maybe we have the skills from the people here I've got a young boy, he's 3 now, full of mischief and I want to make sure this community is as good as it can be before he gets old enough to do serious social interaction.

Suzanne Smith – I moved to Cambourne four years ago. I was already chair of the pre-school before I moved here. I volunteered to help run it and stood down in September to be a Rainbow leader. I handed it over to someone else because I strongly believe it should be run by parents. I'm often seen pushing a big pushchair around Cambourne – I'm a childminder, and also a childminder buddy. I help with those childminders where English is

second language, which shows that Cambourne is diverse. I also help to promote early years education, which is often missed. There is a lack of pre-school places, about 1 in 60 children have to find places outside of Cambourne and are missing social interaction before starting primary school because there are no places. I would like to see that developed, as there is a building here with good OFSTED report to give children chance to do outside play. I would like to see a few more double yellow lines in Cambourne. I am someone that uses a lot of facilities in Cambourne – allotment, trailer park – use a lot of, very hands on, and think that I'm very approachable. The main reason for standing is to try to help the little children and families and make Cambourne as good as it can be.

Simon Crocker – I am 41 and have lived in Cambourne for 11 years now. I am married with a young son of 5 who goes to Monkfield Park. I have background in teaching and lecturing in science, most recently at Anglia Ruskin University and Cambridge Regional College in human biology related areas. I was made redundant in 2006 and since then have been a full-time dedicated househusband. For the last four years I have been the leader with the Cambourne Crier and involvement with the Crier has brought me here today in my desire to join Cambourne Parish Council. I feel involvement with the Crier has given me insight into what makes Cambourne tick and I feel that someone who appreciates that and respects what makes Cambourne run should be on the Parish Council. As far as why I'm standing, what I see issues to be, I think that parking / traffic control should be our number one priority. I do recognise that Parish Council is doing work on this and I'm not accusing them of twiddling their thumbs. It is time we had double yellow lines and a crossing patrol. Other issues in my top five are: litter around Cambourne and provision for arts. I think there's a disproportionate amount of provision given to sporting groups in Cambourne as opposed to what's given to arts.

John Vickery: Thank you candidates. I ask now for questions from the audience.

Question: If you put aside your personal aspirations, can you individually, briefly if you can, describe what you personally have done for the community of Cambourne? Not what you might do in the future, what you have done.

Jon Hansford: For Cambourne? I fear not a lot. I use the Hub quite a lot, the girls use it for dancing. I have been a District Councillor, Chair of Bourn and Longstowe Parish Councils and have been on village hall committees, but for Cambourne, not a lot.

Alison Elcox: I'd say the same thing. I have been a Rainbow leader and Sunday school leader, but not in Cambourne – I come from Bourn.

Jon Hansford: This is a fair point. We're standing for the Bourn ward, not just Cambourne – I think a great case can be made for 2 councillors for Cambourne and 1 for the other villages.

Roger Hume: For nine years I marketed and sold adverts which meant that the Crier could keep going and increasingly as Cambourne grew more and more money had to be raised and I managed to create a huge fund of money which should secure its future. Expenses now are just about matching costs, so that surplus will ensure it keeps going.

Gavin Clayton: That was really brief, Roger: I was expecting to be here for hours! [laughter] You've really done an awful lot and I don't think there's much that's gone on that you've not been aware of, or contributed to in some way. We bought our house here on New Year's Eve 2000; that's when it says we completed. I've contributed two lovely children to Cambourne, a lovely very engaged teenager and a fantastic sprightly 9 year old lad who goes to The Vine. In terms of community, it goes back to when we first moved here. I was on the CRA [Cambourne Residents' Association], sitting around with Gerry Lambert and several others, Roger and Peter. We planned festivals, fireworks display nights – we were called the pioneers, it was when you couldn't walk anywhere without boots, it was one big building site. I think that laid some of the foundations you see now with the plethora of things which go on in a vibrant community. I laid the floor of the Ark with Roger. I have just enrolled as a learning mentor at the Vine, it starts on Friday for the first time with Year 6s. I'm not quite sure that means, hopefully getting to know kids and finding out what they think about the world.

Donavan Bangs: I've been involved in certain community activities, I helped with big bonfire building, pulling pallets and things like that. I have worked with Roger too. The first time I met Roger I helped move a piano which was fun because it had to go over gravel – have you ever tried to move a piano over gravel? Doesn't work too good! As for the general community, what I've also done is for the individuals within Cambourne whether it's something small like lending somebody a staple gun to do some upholstery stuff – I love tools – also counselling individuals because a lot of my skills are with people of course, even just this past week, people who are hurting have serious difficulties with life in general, with their spouses, with so many things and dealing with people in tears over the difficulties that they face and being able to give them a way out or at least an impartial voice to say: "Hey, I understand where you're coming from and we can work this out together." Often I'm just being an ear for people for somebody to listen to them. So often problems seem so great unless they speak out, when we talk to people about them often they come a lot less insurmountable. That's part and parcel of what I do for the people of Cambourne and not just people within the church: it's anybody who needs to talk. I put it in my article each month, if you need to chat, let me know. It's not huge but it's something.

Suzanne Smith: With my education background – before having my 3 children I was a teacher – I volunteered to run Cambourne Pre-School while my children were there, even for one year when there was a gap year. I gave that up to be a Rainbow Leader – it's been cancelled tomorrow night because of the elections, so we're having pirates and princesses in my back garden. I put children first because that's what I do. I am a learning mentor at the Vine; I have helped set up two groups for childminders to use rather than just going to toddler groups, so we can become more professional and deliver the curriculum we have to do, to cover the shortfall of nursery provision. There's a little girl who helps out in the church on Tuesday, rather than leave her on her own, we invite her into our music group to join. It's mostly for the children but I would help anyone. I would like to see more children's services. I would like to promote the Duke of Edinburgh award.

Question: What's a Rainbow?

Suzanne Smith: It's like the Brownies and Guides, but 5-7 girls have Rainbows. When my son grows up, I would like to be Beaver Leader too, as there's only 1.

Simon Crocker: Over last several years I have devoted large amounts of free time towards producing and distributing the Cambourne Crier, a project I feel very passionate about, sometimes it's a full-time job, sometimes more than full-time. A great way to give back to community – the repayment I get out of it, is amazing, it's a very valuable asset to the community, that's what I do for Cambourne – I look after the Crier. It gets me involved, gets me meeting so many different people from all walks of life, people who want to do something to further society, get something going for the residents of Cambourne. I'm very passionate about it and fully intend to carry on for many years.

Question: We've heard what you've done for Cambourne – what about the wider ward of Bourn?

Gavin Clayton: In terms of the wider ward, I echo what you said about Cambourne: not a great deal, have to be honest, no point in pretending otherwise. I used to work at Wysing Arts so I know the ward reasonably well geographically, but in terms of engaging with other Parishes and the issues that those centres have, no. If I were elected, I would be one of those councillors that should be representing Cambourne, that's where I am.

Roger Hume: I can't claim to have done much for Bourn, Caxton, Croxton & Eltisley. I am aware of some of the issues they have in those villages and they obviously will get my attention when needed if I'm elected to the District Council. I have been along to much of the Parish Council meetings over the years, was at Bourn last week for their Parish Council meeting. Just knowing the area, people, problems and issues they have.

Alison Elcox: I've helped out in Caxton. I have looked at the problem with the Bourn Brook, especially as one of my friends was one of the people flooded. I've taken a great interest in Bourn because of children have been going to Bourn since they were 4 even though we didn't live there until 7 years ago. I didn't actually go to Bourn Parish Council last week, but have been to previous ones, also Caxton and also Eltisley. I'm an avid person for going around complaining about potholes, things like that. Before I lived in Bourn we used to live in Arrington where I was Rainbow Leader for Orwell. Although my children went to Bourn school, I needed to meet all of their local friends who went to Bassingbourn. I ran Rainbow unit for 3-4 years and a few years after they became Brownies and Guides. I also ran a church Sunday school there and have helped out at the one in Bourn when they needed help. What we do need is a youth club. What am I doing at the moment? I'm trying to get the teenagers to have some sort of responsibility, to feel as if they belong, to feel as if there's somebody who listens to them and who understands where they're coming from. Most of them are really nice people, all you have to do is listen to them.

Jon Hansford: I was on Bourn Parish Council, and was Vice-Chairman and acting Chair for a while. My father was on Bourn Parish Council for years off and on. I was on the Village Hall Committee. I have contributed five wonderful children, aged 4-29. They've all been through Bourn School. I have been a governor at Bourn school. I have friends and relations in Cambourne, Caxton, Bourn and Eltisley but not at Croxton. I feel kind of bad to leave them out. I'm involved with dance here, whole range of things.

Question: What can the District Council and Parish Council do to engage and interact with young people and reduce Anti Social Behaviour in Villages?

Alison Elcox: Give them someplace to go.

Question: I mean to properly interact – don't just give them a place and chuck them in it!

Jon Hansford: I work with exclusions – I talk to people, show them respect, have to have a place to do it, have to have people who are able to do it, get out there and meet with people, give them a chance to do things and let them take ownership of what they are doing. You have to have people who talk to young people. It's perfectly doable, it can be done. It tends to be done when you have children that age, when my sons were that age, I did a lot of that sort of stuff. I do loads of stuff with young kids, Hannah Montana, Barbie's fantastic, Peppa Pig is brilliant – it goes in phases – you've got to talk to people.

Gavin Clayton: When this Question Time was initiated, I suggested that we try and engage young people in this process. My ideal would be not just to be involved in technical side of things, but shadow candidates, chairing – they need to have a voice. We like to think teenagers are a hard-to-reach group [general disagreement from audience: "they're not"]. Generation gaps exist for a reason, because young people need to find out for themselves who they are for the first time. It's about allowing young people to make a mark for themselves in the community and get involved in democracy. Precious few of Cambourne have done that this evening. How do we get people involved in this process, if can't get people to feel they are part of the community?

Roger Hume: I can't claim to have had any direct contact with young people apart from the fact that I'm a trustee of Cambourne Youth Partnership so we manage the charitable trust to ensure the funding. I get involved with the Youth Fest every year and I can remember in the early days when we didn't have anything in Cambourne. The Youth Bus used to come in and park next to the surgery and I had a key for the surgery to plug them into the electric every Tuesday for quite some months. I don't relate well to young people being over 60 so I leave that to young people.

Alison Elcox: I run my own unofficial youth club. The problem in Bourn is we have this big park, Jubilee Park. They all go down to the far end, someone rings the police, police show up and say "Can you keep the noise down, someone has complained." They get a bit fed up about this after a while. They are doing nothing wrong, they have a right to meet one another in a public place as long as they don't make too much noise. They do have rights. Because it was actually causing so much hassle for all the people around the Jubilee, I've been running an unofficial youth club for the last 18 months and every evening I can get anywhere from 4-12 people at the back of my house sitting on my veranda, and I know them quite well now. I know their hopes and aspirations, if they need advice on anything they come and ask.

Gavin Clayton: What do you think? How do you think, if elected, what should we do?

Questioner: I reckon that perhaps we should have more events for young people, not just the annual youth fest but maybe another fun fair, perhaps with a few more stalls directed

more at teenagers, young people, more groups running at half-term holidays, after exams when we're not trying to revise – good to get young people together when they're not worried about what's going on at school or college. Try to encourage more people to join activities like music groups, sports clubs, things like that. Don't just aim everything at a particular sport like rugby, cricket, football or tennis – try and open it up, perhaps once the sports centre is opened that will help as well with badminton, dance and other activities.

Gavin Clayton: Is there a youth parliament for Cambourne? Something young people would be engaged in?

John Vickery: There are plans for a youth council.

Questioner: I think that it would be good to give young people a voice to give their opinions in their own way, tell people what they want to see in Cambourne and surrounding villages. Reach out to more people, using social networking like Facebook, Twitter, the Forum which a lot of people are on, those sort of things would reach out to people you don't always see walking on the streets, that's where our generation is – on the internet, that's where to reach us.

Simon Crocker: I just wanted to echo the sentiments already said. It's all well and good to fire money at projects, but we do need to get out and engage with community. I personally would like to see young people get more involved in decision-making things, see no reason at all why there can't be a youth council or periodic young person's representation to Parish Council. We're asking these questions among ourselves, perhaps we should be asking them first.

Suzanne Smith: Having been a teacher of a secondary school, I know it's great to ask opinions first. I feel you always get more academic, more confident children to respond. You need to hear from the less confident child who has an idea but doesn't now how to put it across. Internet would work, they could answer. Teenage years are hard, insecure, you go from a child to adulthood, you need guidance but you don't want to walk into a building where you feel you are going to be preached at, lectured to: you need a building to feel like yours where you can meet your friends, arrange to meet people, get help and advice if you need it.

Donavan Bangs: Great ideas here. When someone comes to me and says let's do this, I say great how are we going to do it? Perhaps if we can get youth council set up, you would be standing for election as well. Obviously you know more about teenagers than I do. Sometimes they gather outside my house I go outside and say: "Hi I'm Donavan Bangs pastor of Peacehaven Baptist Church" – and they're gone. [laughter] I'm not mean, not nasty, but they're gone.

Question: for Parish Councillors – what have you done to find out how the Parish Council works? We have lots of responsibilities, especially safeguarding and electrical testing – there is an awful lot to learn when you become a Parish Councillor.

Simon Crocker: I've read everything there is I can get my hands on. Read the minutes, the guides from Cambourne Parish Council and Roger Hume's website. I made the decision

quite some time ago that I wanted to become a member of Cambourne Parish Council and actually put forward my nomination with the ten signatories in February of this year. Since then I've tried to attend every Cambourne Parish Council meeting and I've learned a lot just by coming along as a member of the public, seeing how things work. I'm under no illusions whatsoever that I'll have a lot to learn if elected but I'm keen to learn.

Suzanne Smith: I've never been to a Parish Council meeting before because my life is very busy. When I first started the pre-school I had never done that before either, but did it to a high standard. I understand about safeguarding. When I set my mind to do something I pick things up every easily. I've just done a university course in 6 months, I am sure I will pick it up. I admit that I haven't done a lot of reading about it.

Donavan Bangs: I attended a few Parish Council meetings, also there is on-line an insanely large document which talks about Parish Councils can do, what they can't do, and all of this is subject to change as the government devolves, so I've poured through that. I'm familiar with safety procedures, I spent 6 years in military and so am very familiar with rules, regulations, what to do and what not to do – they give you an instruction manual on how to open a bottle! If I were elected, I would be a very junior member, I would know very little, but I'm used to taking orders, I'm used to getting the job done. Not just years in the military, but I've also been married for a few years, so am used to being told what to do. [laughter]

Question: Do you offer anything to non-parents and do you think that childminders should pay business rates and Council Tax?

Suzanne Smith: If child minders pay business rates and Council Tax they would give up. They have just had cuts imposed by the government. I do offer things to non-parents, I am a good listener. If someone came to me with a problem, I would bring it to the Council. There are places where you can't fit through in a wheelchair in Cambourne, I've been there. I'm deaf in both ears, I can lip-read – not completely deaf. I've family with blindness and other disabilities in many shapes and forms, I can understand the need to help. I'm just a good listener.

Question: I go to Hills Road Sixth Form in Cambridge. When you're trying to say what Cambourne is like to people, they've got this idea from the surrounding villages that there are helicopters flying overtop. As a resident of this ward I frequently have to tell people this isn't the case. I frequently have to try to change the image that is given. As representatives, what would you do to get rid of some of the stigma about Cambourne?

Roger Hume: I'm quite aware of the problems that youth face at school, Comberton and Hills Road, and it's regrettable. It comes from publicity a few years ago when we were getting nothing and having to put up with a lot. Hopefully that has changed now, the opinions of Cambourne will rapidly change particularly when the development changes in a few years, we can get rid of the builders on site, become less of a playground for the anti-social kids who come here to act and play up, regain the trust of the youth in Cambourne because although they are not usually responsible for problems in Cambourne, they get the blame for it. We need to change that.

Jon Hansford: As the younger generation which my daughters represent – they know a lot of people in Cambourne – they will get on and change. As people see people in Comberton Village College they know what they're like, they're all right, they are.

Gavin Clayton: I'm really interested that you're reflecting that view of young people having that pride in where they live, really positive start to build on. My opening statement was about the change taking place in terms of population. We moved here 11 years ago in what was then referred to as social housing and even then was a slight tinge of "Social housing? What's that? What are these people going to be like?" That has changed as people from the city bought here, and brought diversity – we need to look outwards. Promote our community. There are about great activities going on here, there are positive attitudes young and old alike about what we do here. We have to look at closely, not just blame people from outside – where are figures for that? Where are facts? There are very few facts if you look at Anti-Social Behaviour reports. Are we in fact judging people because they're on lower income?

Alison Elcox: I think you're exactly right. My experience is with children living in other villages and also Camborne who refer to it as Crimebourne and this is what you're up against, isn't it? I think the problem is as well that there are so many people that live in Camborne. In Bourn we've got 300-odd houses and in Caxton there's 280 or something like that, so percentage wise there are going to be so many more children likely to create an issue in Cambourne rather than anywhere else. Kim was talking about "here's a hut, use it": I hear you don't because the seats there are so uncomfortable. You want somewhere to just slob out with your friends, surely just put something in the Crier does anyone have an old sofa to donate. It would give somewhere sensible to sit that is actually welcoming and comfortable. Donate some paint and get teenagers to decorate it yourselves to give you pride in what you're actually doing and then you'll look after it yourself, so if someone comes in and starts kicking the walls because they managed to get hold of a bottle of vodka from somewhere, others will say don't do that this is ours and you don't behave like that here. I think time is going to be the problem: it's still Crimebourne to the other villages because of the percentage of people really.

Question: I always got the sense that there was a slight bit of jealousy from the villages perhaps closer to Comberton itself because all they could hear was the bad stories, but I don't know anyone who has been here and who hasn't liked it. Some of my friends in Caxton tell me stories – Cambourne is a case study we do in Geography – about what it was like at first.

Alison Elcox: There's always an us-and-them between the villages. There are parties in Bourn where they're like "are we going to invite Cambourne people?"

Jon Hansford: That will always be. When I was a kid, people from Kingston were really foreigners. [Comment: Maybe Cambourne should twin with Kingston. Laughter.] A lot of the students I work with want to be hard, want the reputation – there will be people in Cambourne who want Cambourne to be seen that way. Hard to alter perceptions, that's going to be difficult. People who want Cambourne to be Crimebourne...

Gavin Clayton: There's a ratio of population. It's also about facilities brought here due to the size of development, we got a Morrisons while others lost village shops

Jon Hansford: Great jealousy, yes.

John Vickery: We need to let the Parish Councillor candidates speak.

Simon Crocker: My answer would be come and see for yourselves: bring them here.

Jon Hansford: When you do it's fine.

Simon Crocker: Any large population is going to have its moments but I don't believe there is a disproportionate level of crime in Cambourne. I've always hated the term "Crimebourne". I feel residents of Cambourne somewhat at fault for that, it's a self-fulfilling prophecy, residents bring it up more than anyone else. We need to celebrate what we have. ["Hear, hear" from various audience members]

Suzanne Smith: Teenagers at school exaggerate what is going on, it builds up a reputation. It's a story, someone else has a story, we've got to have a better one. If you give them something to be proud of and talk about, they can go in and talk about that. One thing brought to my attention today was an increase in bus charges which means you guys aren't going to be able to visit your friends in other villages as much as possible. For teenagers that have to go to Hills Road, Long Road for College & come back out, it makes it harder for them to meet people from other places.

Donavan Bangs: I would echo what you said: come and see. This is like fluffy bunny land compared to where I'm from. I used to live down the road from a crackhouse, drive a Sunday school bus down roads the cops wouldn't go without a SWAT team. I used to live in downtown Los Angeles. The most dangerous thing in Cambourne is me! There's plenty of open areas where you can go and do all kinds of things (some of them shouldn't be doing them). Anyone has any problems; I say come to Cambourne, come and see, it's great.

Question: This is much better than the programme on the TV called Question Time, much wittier and much nicer. I'd like to hear a little bit more about your vision for the area. A lot of people move to the area and buy into a concept (three villages in one, socially mixed, good education provision, etc.). How do you feel the area should develop?

Simon Crocker: For me when I moved here what I bought into was the ability to afford a house. It was my first time buying a home, I was still in university at the time, and there were a number of council schemes which made it fiscally possible for me to buy a house and I'd like to see that continue long into the future. I'm thrilled about 30% social housing or council housing or whatever the politically correct terms are for it in the new 950. Secondly I found the idea attractive that I'd have somewhere safe to bring up my family and I'm of the opinion that lots of people in Cambourne feel the same way. There's an enormous amount of new or expectant families that move here and you ask yourself why are they doing it? It's a safe and secure place to bring up your family, superb education provision, within easy reach of major urban centres. I'd like the slightly homespun feel to continue no matter how big Cambourne gets, which I understand is a matter of some debate.

Suzanne Smith: I'd like it to retain its friendliness so when people who are new who move into the community you know who they are. I love that about Cambourne and a lot of my friends do, they love that sense of community of having a conversation with someone you don't know. We've got to remember to make people feel as welcome as we did when we moved in. I'd like to see parks maintained as well as they are now, yellow lines getting sorted out – when towing trailers down to the trailer park on Saturday, it's not easy! I'd like to see the sports centre up and running and to get a swimming pool. On Saturday afternoons to Godmanchester I pay their little centre £7 for my three – why should I have to do this in another village? I would like to have it in my home village. We need a children's centre on the High Street and more shops if feasible. The children's centre is a tiny, tiny room at Monkfield, a tiny room at the Library: Caldecote's is huge. There are two schools in Cambourne where we could attach a children's centre which makes it easier for people from different walks of life to access courses, to help parenting, to help them with healthy eating. I'd like to see things for elderly, lots happen now, would like to see it continue – my parents go ballroom dancing, why can't we have that in Cambourne?

Donavan Bangs: I didn't buy into any concept, we were starting work over in Cambridge but the landlady wanted to sell the house and since I didn't have £300,000 (checked both pockets, wasn't there), we came along and a place opened up here. Strange what they call affordable housing: their definition and mine, totally different. Came up here, it's a great community. I would like to see more done for the arts and entertainment. I believe that Cambourne will be of such a size that there's no reason why we shouldn't have a dedicated meeting place for the arts, I think we discussed a community theatre or cinema, stuff like that. Let me say, on this side (Parish Council) here, it's not a competition – both of these candidates are excellent, excellent choices, and we don't represent political parties, we don't care: we just want to get some stuff done. I have been known to sometimes offend people. We just need to get it done, more places for the arts, we want to have great inclusion for people. My wife runs the Cambourne International Ladies' Group – I had to help her set up the WordPress thing and update things, we want to see greater inclusion of the people. This is a great community. Today I went down to the park, the one with the seesaw – we just call it the seesaw playground – and I noticed that there needed to be another piece of wood in that middle of that tower thing [Comment from **John Vickery:** we're doing it] so that things get better and better for all of our children and for the adults here, let's face it, if the children are better, it's better for all of us.

Gavin Clayton: In the days before the press started coining nasty phrases about Cambourne, I visited David Chare in the bungalow – do you remember the bungalow that used to be over that way somewhere? – and he got out all the plans for Cambourne and got very excited. Like Simon, I didn't buy into the concept, I bought here because I could afford it, but I think what I've been aware of is the pressure that comes to bear on those original ideas, the idea of three distinct villages which has gone slightly, which is a shame, and I think that that's something if elected to the District Council is a really important role. The budget of the District Council is tight when compared to the money which comes with the government's need to build the houses. There's a balance between the money and the relaxation of the planning laws and trying to maintain the concept of Cambourne as three villages, that's part of the work of the District Council and it's been quite difficult in the past and I'm sure it'll continue to be. In terms of how I'd like Cambourne to develop, and we're talking about Cambourne and not wider, I'd like to retain that very welcoming place. You go

to somewhere like Gransden, my kid plays football there, and everyone says hello. Maybe we need to restate these things, maybe I'm getting old, it feels affirming, the number of people that say hello, the people are very engaging, but it has got less because of the size of the population. I like to see Facebook and Twitter up and running. I don't find Forum very user friendly myself, I have gone onto it, maybe it's easier if you sign up. In terms of the arts, the things that happen, I'd love a stand at a village show, gathering under a marquee with your best six spuds, I like those kinds of things. An open-air cinema projected onto the side of the Hub while the High Street is still open and not overly developed, spaces still open and under-utilised, it would be great promotion for Morrisons. If there's a vision, allow it to develop, particularly for the arts, breach generation gaps and allow people to promote and bring out ideas from the community.

Roger Hume: We certainly bought into a concept when we came here, we were fully aware there was nothing here but what was going to be here ticked all our boxes. When we arrived, there was no bus service, not a single shop, not a single letting place, but during our eleven years we've seen those things materialise. What I'd like to see is when we've built the extra 950 homes, I'd like to see us mature as a community rather than a transient place where people buy a house for a few years and then move on. We need time for people to speak to each other as they pass each other, it's still very good but you can't quite replicate that with 3,300 homes. Once those 950 homes are built we must resist pressure for any further development.

Alison Elcox: We said this was a vision, what does Cambourne actually really need? It seems to me that it's supposed to be 3 villages but you have the village centre by Morrisons, there's no shops at Lower and Upper – it is supposed to be 3 but isn't. We need some employment. Little tiny cottage industries, something to keep people here, something to give them something to do, cottage industries, retail – that would be my vision rather than just more houses. We need more infrastructure that isn't houses.

Jon Hansford: I've heard all the vision stuff. It's wonderful, but I think the nuts and bolts are wrong. I'm heading into the Council and what the Council needs to get right. In September, Hardwick Primary School will have two mobiles added to it to take Cambourne students. The schools haven't been planned for, I know it's County Council not District Council. In 2013 Comberton Village College will be full, bursting at the seams, there's no places. There is no secondary school for Cambourne, it will not happen in 2013, the land is not there, the land hasn't been purchased. Where will they go? Chesterton? I don't think we need to be bussing children to Hardwick.

Comment from floor: Cambourne Secondary School is due to open in September 2012.

Jon Hansford: As I understand it, Cambridgeshire County Council have set aside two classrooms in Hardwick for Children for Cambourne, I'm willing to be corrected but that is what I have been told by the County Council this week. We need yellow lines – because the County Council is going to adapt rules, Parish Councils will be able to do things they couldn't do before. I think there are going to be a number of nuts and bolts issues we need to be put right.

Question: This is a question for the District Councillors. Obviously you've given a lot of thought about what the role of District Councillor means. Could you give me an idea of 1 or 2 things to achieve in first few months as a District Councillor?

Jon Hansford: Judging by the number of parents I've spoken to about school places and reception class places – it is not District Council, is County Council situation – a lot of Cambourne parents have not got the place in school they wanted. A number of appeals need support. That is something I presume I can undertake and help with, even though I'm a District Councillor. There are issues about where people can cross roads to get to school safely. There needs to be signs for crossings and maybe a crossing patrol. I could work on these things. I would hope, I could be wrong, these would be 2 starting points. Housing and planning, those are two District Council things I would hope to implement.

Alison Elcox: I wasn't expecting you to stop talking so soon! [Laughter] I'd like to sort out this meeting place for the children – I mean teenagers, young people – to give them an identity. Someone else is talking about the cost of getting to Long Road and Hills Road now that they've put up the cost. I've already started looking to find an alternative way to find out how many in Cambourne need to go to these places, I've not had any replies yet to find out how many. It's gone up extortionately, hasn't it? Some people are not going to be able to go. Some people are going to ask whether they need to get into college this week if they don't have £20 available. I can't get out of them how many people there are, I'm sure I'll get there in the end. Sort out children, sort out travel.

Roger Hume: Two things I've got in my mind: implementation of the new section 106 agreement to cover 950 new homes. We need to make sure that we've had rigorous rules on timing and make sure things are delivered on time. The other thing is I'm not particularly happy with is the design of housing in Upper Cambourne, it seems to me they've missed a trick somewhere. They got it right in Lower Cambourne, but Upper Cambourne is just not right. We need to promote getting back to the concept of Cambourne where houses look different, somewhere people want to live.

Gavin Clayton: I'm trying to pick two out of the little list I've just drawn for myself. One overarching thing is to try and fully comprehend as a District Councillor what the implications of the budget that's been set are and the links to the pressure on building more homes, because while Roger's right to say 950 and no more, I suspect there's going to be pressure for a little bit more, little bit more, little bit more, while there's budgetary reward for that. I think we've not seen yet the pressures going to be introduced from the cuts. As a District Councillor, we need to have as full an understanding of what the budget actually is, what level of reward is going to be, and how long it will last. Also, I would like to be involved in community transport strategy from South Cambs. I cycle and take the bus, for young people this is huge. Is anything in the Community Strategy to address these needs? Also voluntary sector relations are important – local authorities not always the best at partnership working, we need to get a lot better. Schemes like the Community Grant Scheme with a maximum £1,000 grant is very important.

John Vickery: Thanks to all the candidates for taking part in Question Time and to the audience. I think you've had a chance to learn what they would like to bring to Cambourne and I hope you take this away and think about it for Thursday, thank you for coming.

Peter Drake: Thank to John Vickery for stepping in as Chairman with 5 minutes' notice.