

Transport Provision at Wixam Park

The ambition for Wixam Park is to make it as sustainable as we can and ensure the needs of local residents are met. We understand that people still depend on cars to travel, and that is why we will be delivering car parking spaces in line with Central Bedfordshire Council's requirements. The exact number of spaces will be determined based on the total number and type of houses built on the site and will also be reflected by the ease of travel using other methods on the site including walking, cycling and public transport. These factors will be taken into account in developing the design and layout of the development to ensure there is an appropriate level of car parking spaces to reflect the predicted travel patterns and habits of the residents and visitors to the site.

Wixam Park will have strong public transport links, allowing people to make choices over their travel. The site will be served by two existing bus services (Route 2 and Route 42) which stop on the B530 Ampthill Road – approximately 15 minutes' walk from the centre of the proposed site. These routes provide hourly services Monday through to Saturday. The development proposals remain at an early stage, however; there has been some discussion around the potential to provide additional bus services and to improve the existing bus services serving the area, which will be continued as the planning process moves forward.

The Kempston Hardwick Railway Station is approximately 3km north from the centre of Wixam Park, providing hourly services between Bedford and Bletchley. In addition to this rail route, there are proposals for a new railway station which were consented as part of the Wixams development. This new station would be located approximately 2km (a 25-minute walk) from the centre of the proposed development site. It is intended that the new station would be served by four Thameslink trains per hour between Bedford and St Pancras. Bedford Borough Council have committed to contributing £14 million of capital funds to fill the funding gap to enable the delivery of the station, which is regarded a crucial piece of the puzzle in enabling the short and long-term growth of the Oxford-Cambridge arc.

A number of internal streets will be constructed to ensure access to all parts of the site, designed to accommodate all types of vehicles. The development as a whole will see wide footways and cycle tracks delivered along key routes, ensuring the safety of walkers and cyclists and encouraging people to travel in these ways. The inclusion of a local centre in Wixam Park, providing a mix of essential services and amenities, would also reduce the need to travel outside of the development and enable people to access what they need by foot/bike if they are physically able to. Cycle storage will also be widely available across the site, with specific cycle storage provision provided for each home, and a substantial number of cycle storage spaces in the local centre and at education facilities.