

## **BABRAHAM PARISH COUNCIL AGM**

**17.05.18**

### **BABRAHAM RESEARCH CAMPUS REPORT**

The campus continues to grow, with sixty life science organisations thriving on-site and approximately 1200 members of staff across those organisations. However, our identity has been confusing for people as a lot has changed over the past couple of decades. From being solely the Babraham Institute our expansion has seen us adopt the name Babraham Research Campus to reflect our nature as a community of many different organisations, be they academic or commercial Life Science R and D. We are very particular in using the word Campus rather than a more ubiquitous term of Park as we encourage everyone to be part of a campus like culture. To promote this, Babraham Bioscience Technologies (who have responsibility for developing, operating and managing the commercial side of the campus) have created a new web site to showcase the campus. Increasingly, you will see the site promoted as the Babraham Research Campus as a location, rather than the organisations that are located or manage the campus. The site address is [www.babraham.com](http://www.babraham.com) please take a look.

Importantly, within the centre of the campus, the Babraham Institute continues to be at the heart of our venture. It remains as a centre of academic excellence, providing world class science that dives into the processes of Healthy Ageing. The Institute web site gives a really good insight into the work being done within it, which can be found at [www.babraham.ac.uk](http://www.babraham.ac.uk)

As a reflection of the community principle we opened a new restaurant and conferencing facility, The Cambridge Building, at the beginning of 2017 and this is fulfilling the ambitions we had for it, namely becoming the focal point for staff and visitors across the campus. The conference facility has a 205 seater lecture theatre, and a number of meeting rooms. It has encouraged people to meet and socialise in a single building at the heart of the campus. Sitting next to the Hall and its gardens it is a perfect location. This facility is used also by external organisations that are not located on site too.

Our development of R and D facilities has continued in response to the continued demand from Life Science companies for laboratory space. This demand is from companies of all sizes from start-up to scale-up. It is Babrahams unique position in having the community, capability and culture to enable companies to thrive in their early years (and beyond) that draws organisations to us. As a result we find ourselves providing a home to a pipeline of companies that range from one or two people in size to one (Kymab) that now has 180 staff members.

This year we welcomed on site another partner, Biomed Realty, who are developing the latest R and D buildings on the R and D2 site. Biomed Realty are the owners of Granta Park in Great Abington and together we are able to provide facilities to accommodate from the very smallest to much larger entities across the two sites. It is important to say that we see Babraham as the home for the early stages of the Life Science company pipeline.

The two buildings that Biomed are constructing will be completed to a first phase, shell and core, by the end of March 2019. The buildings will then be “fitted-out” over the following 12 to 18 months to the specification of tenants who take that space.

The 2017 year also saw another partner, Imperial College London ThinkSpace, complete and fill its building (white building near to the river bridge). This is a 4500sqm facility and it provides a home for two companies, Abzena and Bicycle Therapeutics.

An important element of the R and D2 development is the Public Art commission that will result out of it. A Steering Group of Babraham Village and Campus representatives has been formed to realise the commission and to see it through to a successful conclusion.

Alongside the R and D2 Development, we have introduced new landscaping as agreed with and approved by the South Cambs Planning Office (as part of the Outline planning approval conditions for R and D2). There are four main areas of planting and landscaping that we have developed; reinstating the hedge line along the campus boundary of Rowley Lane, creating a new tree planting area next to the farm barn at the Rowley Lane campus entrance, infill planting along the river course and a “bund” near the main entrance covered with over 2000 trees and shrubs.

Independent of this we are also creating conservation areas within the Parkland at the front of the Hall (alongside the public multi-user path). Initially this will see us allow the Park grasses to grow rather than cutting them back and in time look to introduce wild flowers to those areas. Of course we continue to promote and maintain paths (public or otherwise) through the campus estate to the south of the river. It is a fantastic area to walk through.

Finally I am very happy that the multi-user path opened in February 2017 by Cambridgeshire County Council has been well received. I personally see many people using it either for cycling, walking, running and occasionally horse riding. It is heartening to know that it is providing both the wider community and the campus with a means to enjoy the great outdoors.

Chris Chapman

Director of Campus and Facilities

Babraham Bioscience Technologies Ltd