

District Report: Shrobona Bhattacharya

Cambourne to Cambridge corridor

A decision has been made on the general preferred route of East West Rail. It will have a station at Cambourne rather than Bassingbourn, as had been previously expected. Following on from last year's consultation, Route E has been chosen. The six routes in the consultation can be seen at <http://tinyurl.com/EWRroutes>. The East West Rail Consortium is working to develop the precise alignment that the railway would take within the preferred route option. Before the final alignment is chosen, there will be more opportunities to comment on the plans. Route E connects the railway to Cambridge station from the south, joining with the line to King's Cross somewhere near the site for the proposed Cambridge South station near Addenbrooke's, and not from the north. A campaign is now underway for East West Rail to be fully electrified during construction, rather than at much greater expense afterwards. This would protect residents along the route from the serious harmful effects of diesel smoke.

Meanwhile, the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) Executive Board has taken the decision to defer the planned decision on its Cambourne to Cambridge Guided Busway scheme to a future meeting. Their current plans have some problematic elements:

- The route goes right next to houses in Coton
- It would require the destruction of the trees between the A428 and St Neots Rd in Hardwick
- Fields near Scotland Farm would be concreted over to form a giant Park and Ride
- The route is too sharply curved in places to be converted into part of the Cambridge Metro

Follow-up Meetings with the Stagecoach Directors

I prefer a revised, regular bus system covering the key destinations and routes which are cheaper, that will help our daily commuters.

Cllr Mark Howell and I met the Stagecoach Directors, Ross Burton and Steve on our 2nd follow-up meeting on 18th February. Cllr Mark Howell challenged the Directors with several questions when I asked for (proposed) several quicker solutions for our daily commuters especially to the Science Park/ Business Park, St. Neots railway station, Addenbrookes etc. from Cambourne. Cllr Mark Howell also asked for a dedicated circular bus within Cambourne.

Operational Director, Ross Burton asked me to prepare the numbers (data) of the daily commuters in each route to make his business case.

I also invited the Stagecoach directors to come and meet the community on 19th April and 17th May at the Hub, this will open-up both way communications.