

October 2022 District Report, Cllr Shrobona Bhattacharya

I have sent my question to Dr Nik Johnson, Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

Q1. How will the combined Authority make sure the bus services are restored for Camborne residents?

Q 2. How long did you know this was coming and has nothing been done to prevent stage couch pulling the service?

My question to Combined authority on 27th September was:

Combined authority works on strategy, planning, regional needs - How Combined authority justify of taking the important busses off the road? Now, what is the rescue plan for the residents? and students?

I did not get any reply on the rescue plan.

I asked at the Full District Council office on 22nd September:

“People have started panicking in Cambourne as they came to know about the withdrawal of the bus service of 18, the parents, teachers and the students of Comberton Village College as well as the residents of Cambourne use this bus for their daily commute? I have received many questions, many messages from the residents, how can they continue their journeys? What answer should I carry from this Council today for the residents”?

I received the reply, "District Council is working with the combined authority" and "we do not have anything else to answer".

I asked another question, “How can you ask for the congestion charge while you are taking the public busses off from the roads”? How can these two things fit together? At one hand, there is no bus and then at other hand, Council asked for the congestion money. But, it was not on the agenda, so I did not receive any reply.

A brief from March 2022, a meeting with Stagecoach Director

- I organised a site visit with Stagecoach manager Ross Barton in Cambourne on 21st March 2022

- I, then met Cambourne clerk John Vickery at his office along with Stagecoach manager on 21st March and we had a discussion on the new bus stops, and a few issues on the buses.
 - Ross clearly mentioned about the risk of the sustainability of busses running between Cambourne and Cambridge due to the lack of funding. He mentioned that if the finance is not secured then these buses will go under the threat of removal in July 2022 and finally, they will be taken off the road in October 2022.
 - The risk of losing the bus services in Cambourne was mentioned at the Clerk's report at the full Council meeting.
 - I remembered that I have spoken in the full Town Council and elaborated the fact what Ross Barton, Stagecoach manager conveyed to us at the clerk's office, that our buses are under threat.
 - Most bus services in Cambridgeshire are run on a commercial basis along with the funding from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) which is led by the mayor.
- ❖ The mayor ultimately controls the budget of the CPCA. The mayor can consider freeing up additional revenue funding on bus services.
 - ❖ This has resulted in Stagecoach announcing they are axing 18 services across the county, including the 11/X11, the 12, and the 39 in East Cambs. Another 22 Stagecoach services of concern have been placed on an 'amber' list, some of which will have their routes or pick up/drop off points changed and could be at risk in the future.

The meetings I have attended last month:

Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP) Member Engagement Session - Wednesday, 7 September 2022

Community Safety Partnership Member Briefing - Thursday, 15 September 2022

Cambourne Community Support Partnership – 20th September

Full Council Meeting – 22nd September

Licensing Workshop – 26th September

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Briefing - Monday, 26 September 2022

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusivity Training - Wednesday, 28 September 2022 (till the tea break)

News Release from District Council – I have already forwarded the emails released in September 2022 to the Councillors and John Vickery, the Clerk of Cambourne Town Council

Thursday 22 September 2022, Councils trial plant-powered bin lorries in latest step towards decarbonisation – email sent to the Councillors

September 2022 parish e-bulletin - email sent to the Councillors

News release: Biofuel trial in bin lorries - email sent to the Councillors

News release: West Wickham Neighbourhood Plan - email sent to the Councillors

News release: Northstowe show homes and sales office - email sent to the Councillors

By-election for Longstanton ward - email sent to the Councillors

News release: By-election for Longstanton ward - email sent to the Councillors

News release: Visit South Cambs one year anniversary - email sent to the Councillors

The upcoming Public Consultations are:

1. Thursday 20th October at the Great Cricket Pavilion – Public Consultation with Darryl Preston, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire

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