

CAMBOURNE TOWN COUNCIL

District of South Cambridgeshire

Council Meeting 7th February 2023

Traffic Matters and Road Safety

Traffic Matters Clerk update- 20mph speed limit

The Town Clerk met with James Toombs, the current project engineer and Simon Manville who is taking over the lead on the project from James and Jason McCloud who will be the project designer. They are preparing updated costings for the 20mph zones. This will include the highlighted areas in the drawing attached being 20mph without traffic calming and the non-highlighted main spine roads being 20mph with traffic calming. The traffic calming, they are pricing at the moment is speed cushions as these have minimum impact on ambulances and buses and are safer to use for cyclist and motor cyclists.

Following the pricing of the scheme it will be sent to the Town Council for review for confirmation to proceed with the project.

It is

RECOMMENDED that the update is received.

Traffic Matters and Road Safety

Correspondence

	FROM	SUBJECT
15.1	Bridget Smith – Leader of the District Council	Letter sent to the Minister regarding the proposed East-West rail line
15.2	National Highways	A428 Strategic Stakeholder Board - Update on Legal Challenge
15.3	A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet	February newsletter

The below schedule is a summary of correspondence circulated by the Town Clerk to Councillors since the last meeting by email

FROM	SUBJECT
National Highways	Important roadworks information - A1 Little Paxton to Baldock landscaping
National Highways	Important roadworks information - A1 Biggleswade to Sandy

15.1 Letter sent to the Minister regarding the proposed East-West rail line

Huw Merriman MP
Minister of State
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

By email to:

huw.merriman.mp@parliament.uk

Contact: Bridget Smith
cllr.bridgetsmith@scambs.gov.uk

1 February 2023

Dear Minister

Subsequent to the announcement on Nov 17th that Government intends to proceed with the development of an east west rail link between Cambridge and Oxford I, and the Parish Councils who have co-signed this letter, would like to invite you to visit South Cambridgeshire, ideally with EWR Ltd in attendance too. This is the district which will have to accommodate the majority of the new infrastructure with significant impact on many of our villages and I would welcome the opportunity to show you what this means to local communities.

The uncertainty over the past 5 years about the status of this scheme has caused considerable distress to residents and communities and this has not been allayed by the engagement carried out thus far by EWR Ltd.

Whilst we as an administration are supportive of the principle of an East West rail link, we have considerable reservations about the schemes that have been presented so far, both

because of the impact on small and sensitive communities as well as on the environmental damage to an already denuded natural landscape.

Additionally, there has been pitiful engagement with us as the planning authority over the location of a new station at Cambourne and while we accept the advantages of this for the community, I was extremely concerned to learn that no thought at all had been given to the knock on requirement for additional housing at Cambourne and where it could be located.

Local residents do not feel heard and there is much unhappiness regarding what is widely seen as a 'done deal'. I am appealing for far greater transparency over decision making. Proposals involving 30ft high embankments have done enormous damage to public confidence and the silence around why a diesel rolling stock is being proposed adds to this. Additionally communities that could be impacted by the infrastructure feel that they are taking all the pain without any gain in terms of access to a rail service.

I believe that it is absolutely essential that this is a railway line fit for the 21st century and that it meets, if not exceeds, the environmental standards that we as the local authority are striving for.

I would be delighted to host you for a meeting at our offices in Cambourne and to take you on a tour of the villages which could be most impacted.

Yours sincerely

Bridget Smith

Leader, South Cambridgeshire District Council

Co-signatory Parish Councils:

Abington Pigotts (parish meeting)	Fen Drayton	Knapwell (parish meeting)
Barrington	Fowlmere	Little Gransden
Barton	Foxton	Madingley
Bassingbourn-cum-Kneesworth	Gamlingay	Melbourn
Cambourne	Great Shelford	Pampisford
Cottenham	Harlton	Papworth Everard
Croydon	Hatley	Stapleford
Dry Drayton	Hauxton	Teversham
Duxford	Ickleton	Whittlesford
Elsworth	Kingston	

15.2 A428 Strategic Stakeholder Board - Update on Legal Challenge

Dear All

You may well have received this update from other channels, but as we have been working together over the last few months, I also wanted to personally email the latest update on the legal challenge from Transport Action Network.

In December we let you know we hadn't started construction on the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet scheme as initially planned and at our last Senior Stakeholder Board we let you know that we were still waiting to hear back from the High Court.

A judge at the High Court has now reviewed the application and has refused permission for a judicial review on all three grounds.

While this is positive news, the legal process is not complete as Transport Action Network has now requested that its application for permission be heard at a High Court oral hearing.

The High Court does not publish timescales and we are awaiting a date for the oral hearing.

We appreciate that these improvements are much needed and wanted by local people, motorists, and businesses, so we understand this is a frustrating time for those who recognise the importance of this scheme.

While we are naturally disappointed that we have had to postpone the start of construction on the scheme, it's important we respect the ongoing legal process. As this is an ongoing legal case we are not able to provide any further information but are continuing to assess the impact and will provide further updates as soon as possible.

We remain committed to this scheme and stand by our assessments submitted during the DCO examination. Our plans will help transform the region, improving journeys between Milton Keynes, Bedford, St Neots and Cambridge by bringing communities together and supporting long-term regional growth.

We will continue with our pre-works and engagement already underway as we prepare for construction. We will be updating our [website](#), social media sites and emailing our newsletter subscriber base and contacting the media tomorrow with this news.

We will continue to update you while this legal challenge is ongoing and we'll provide a more detailed update at our next Senior Stakeholder Board on 5 April – if there are any further significant developments ahead of our next meeting I will write to you again to provide an update.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement on the scheme.

Yours sincerely,

Paul

A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Improvements

15.3 A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet - February newsletter

What's happening?

In December 2022 we let you know we hadn't started construction on the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet scheme as initially planned.

Planning permission (called a Development Consent Order) was granted by the Secretary of State back in August 2022 and we have been busy preparing for construction.

However Transport Action Network (TAN) submitted an application to the High Court for permission for a judicial review of the Secretary of State's decision to grant the A428 Development Consent Order.

A judge at the High Court has now reviewed the application and has refused permission for a judicial review on all three grounds.

While this is positive news, the legal process is not complete as Transport Action Network has requested that its application for permission for a judicial review be heard at a High Court oral hearing.

The High Court does not publish timescales and we are awaiting a date for the oral hearing.

As this is an ongoing legal case we are not able to provide any further information but are continuing to assess the impact and will provide further updates as soon as possible.

You can read more about the challenge on our [website](#).
A428 archaeology update



A hard rock life

This might just look like a rock, but it is an archaeological artefact! It is part of a quern stone, which were used to grind grain and probably dates to the Iron Age or Roman period. The grain would be placed in the middle of this large stone, and a smaller

stone was moved backwards and forwards to grind it into flour. Over time this made the surface of the quern stone very smooth and slightly curved, so our archaeologists were quickly able to identify it.

This quern stone might not be very exciting to look at, but it gives us an incredible, tangible link to everyday life in the past. It tells us about the food people ate, and the hard work they had to put in to make it.

Pottery

Our team have been having a field day when it comes to pottery finds. They just keep getting better and better. The last couple of weeks have revealed some decorated sherds (that's what archaeologists call pieces of pot) as well as bright orangey-red Samian ware. Samian ware was made in Gaul (modern day France) during the Roman period and was very popular as high-status tableware.

Other pottery finds include some shell tempered ware, which was probably made locally. As the name suggests, fragments of shell were added to the clay to prevent the pot from cracking or shrinking during the firing process.

We have also found some pots which were thrown away whole. Most of these are in lots of pieces after being thrown into a rubbish pit, but one of our archaeologists managed to piece most of one pot back together.



From left to right: decorated pot sherd, Samian Ware, shell tempered ware & our archaeologist with his almost complete pot

A428 archaeology blog

Our latest [blog](#) post takes a look at some rather incredible finds from the earlier stage of excavations.

Meeting students at Bedford College



Earlier in January, we visited Bedford College to meet T Level students studying Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction.

We spoke to the students about our A428 Black Cat project and early careers. We discussed how the content they learn translates to real life roles and responsibilities.