

District Councillor's Report for July 2023

Cllr Shrobona Bhattacharya

My question to Full Council Meeting for July 2023,

Could the Leader of the Council please provide an update on the progress of the Cambourne High Street project in Full Council Meeting?

East West Rail

Hundreds turned out for drop-in events last week to raise issues over the environment, the visual impact, the route choice, and the lack of information from the East West Railway Company (EWR Co).

The East West Rail company made its long-awaited announcement on 26th May on the route that the proposed railway will follow. The official routes that were consulted on pass by Cambourne, with a station either north or south of that town, before heading south to join with the existing line from Royston near Harston. Two pressure groups - the Cam Bed Rail Road (CBRR) and Cambridge Approaches (CA) - had been campaigning for a "northern route" that would pass through Oakington with a station on Cambridge Road.

The route that will be put to the official statutory consultation, probably later this year, is very similar to one of their earlier preferred routes. It will have a station north of Cambourne before heading south at Caldecote and passing close to the villages of Toft, Comberton, Little Eversden and Haslingfield before joining the line from London King's Cross near Harston and then entering Cambridge from the south and passing through the new Cambridge South station near Addenbrooke's hospital.

One of the main reasons for opposition to the southern route was a series of high embankments and viaducts close to villages on the southern route. They say that their work since the previous consultation has helped them to identify potential opportunities to reduce or remove viaducts and embankments. They believe that they could remove or reduce the height of approximately half the length of embankments or viaducts compared to what was shown at the consultation. This work will be developed further and they have promised to provide details at the statutory consultation.

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service public survey

The Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service is holding a public survey of residents and business owners in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The fire service is required to create a 3-to-5-year plan that identifies the fire and rescue related risks in the county and how it plans to mitigate or be prepared for them. It also identifies the opportunities it will take to continue to improve its services to communities. The fire service is currently preparing to write its next plan for 2024/29 and they are seeking views from people in the communities they serve, so their thoughts and expectations of the service can be reflected in the plan.

The survey will provide the fire and rescue service with valuable information about what residents and business owners in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough expect of their local fire service, as well as gathering people's thoughts on different risks and situations. The information will be used to help the fire service ensure it is targeting its resources in the most effective way. Here is a link to the survey which will take 10-15 minutes to complete:

<https://bit.ly/43pzLHU>

Four Day week for Bin Crews

South Cambs Council has decided to extend its four-day week working trial to bin collection crews. The trial will start later in the summer and will mean our collection day is changed as Monday is the new 'day off' for collection staff. The Council has advertised for extra collection crew staff, as staff numbers need to be expanded to do five days' work in four. The direct cost to council tax-payers of having to employ more staff any buy more bin lorries to collect waste in four days rather than five would be over £100,000 in the first year, rising to over £200,000 in the second year. The Council claims to be able recover these increased costs through lower levels of staff absence and reduced use of agency staff.

Climate & Environment Advisory Committee

<https://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/news/local-news/cambs-residents-frightened-cooking-its-27071545>

Buying 'convenience food' in single-use-plastic packaging is increasing plastic wastage. People need to back into their own kitchen to tackle the single-use plastic that is choking our oceans, and rivers.

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