

APPENDIX C

ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE, 8 FEBRUARY

MINUTE 86 QUEEN ADELAIDE Traffic Survey – crossings

NOTE FROM COUNCILLOR BILL HUNT (SOHAM SOUTH AND HADDENHAM)

To the Chairman E&E Committee.

I am the Member for Soham South and Haddenham and an Ely resident. I believe that any change/reduction in the traffic flow at Queen Adelaide Ely (Ely North Junction) would have implications all the way on A142 South, Roads to Prickwillow, roads to Littleport and upon many of the future residents of the soon to be started Ely North.

The community that is Queen Adelaide could easily be destroyed and Prickwillow Road, Lisle Lane and Broad Street Ely would become even more congested than at present.

The gain from the proposed junction works is nationwide and I believe it only right and proper that the cost burden is also a national issue and a national responsibility.

The only acceptable solution is a road solution which does not divide the community and either improves upon or at least maintains the current traffic flow.

NOTE FROM CLLR PAUL RAYNES (SOHAM NORTH AND ISLEHAM)

Fen villages like Isleham do not have secondary schools, hospitals, more than one shop, or many workplaces, and have no rail and very limited bus services. For a village like Isleham to be viable, residents need to be able to access jobs, schools and services in places like Ely by road in private vehicles.

As the 2020 study before the Committee shows, a large number of people are using the Ely Road through Queen Adelaide to do that. A significant proportion of the 1500-1800-plus daily vehicle movements in each direction coming from Prickwillow towards Ely and back again recorded at the East ATC in the study (page 18) will have started in Isleham. East Cambridgeshire's draft local plan envisages that number growing significantly, as Figure 2 in the study shows, in part as a result of proposed new housing in Isleham.

The alternative route from Isleham to Ely is longer, and involves accessing the A142 at a crossroads on East Fen. This is a dangerous junction, which will get busier should the several developments planned for Soham go ahead, while the access roads across East Fen are in bad repair. Nor is it obvious that further pressure should be put on the A142. Diverting a large number of peak-time vehicle movements onto that road at that junction would not be a good idea.

It is therefore important to Isleham residents, and to current users of the A142 including Soham residents, to try and keep the Ely Road at Queen Adelaide fully open to traffic if the rail junction is developed. Since the Ely North Junction project is still being scoped and its budget developed, any and every option for keeping a road open at Queen Adelaide is worth exploring at this stage.

Cambridgeshire County Council's logo represents, I have told, the land and water of the Fen landscape. I would ask the Committee to take a decision, please, that recognises the travel and economic needs of Fen villages like Isleham, and safeguards their future viability, by exploring options 7 and 8 which would keep this road open.