

## Public Question Time

No.	Question from:	Question to:	Question:
1.	Mr Fernando Gris	Councillor Alex Beckett, Chair of Highways and Transport Committee	What was the basis upon which a decision to institute the coverage of the 20 mile speed limit in Ely was taken?
	Response from:	Response to:	Response:
	Councillor Alex Beckett, Chair of Highways and Transport Committee	Mr Fernando Gris	To be provided at the meeting.
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2.	Mr Leigh Carter	Councillor Alex Beckett, Chair of Highways and Transport Committee	<p>I am concerned about the East West Rail proposals and their impact on Cambridgeshire and would like to ask the following question please:</p> <p>“A statutory consultation on East West Rail is imminent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Department for Transport state that the BCR (Benefit Cost Ratio) is only 0.3. But they argue that strategically it would relieve road congestion into Cambridge thus unlocking growth.</li> <li>- This seems unlikely as their proposed housing plan at Cambourne, Tempsford and further west caters for 213,300 new people only 1,600 of whom would use the railway to commute to Cambridge. Our roads would get much busier.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recent FOIs show a 500m wide strip of land 50km long would be taken for construction from Clapham in Bedfordshire to Hauxton and that Cambridge rail services to London would be closed for 6 months over the 6 to 15 years of construction.</li> <li>- Bedford Borough Council has performed due diligence on the economic impact and the choice of route of this proposal.</li> <li>- What plans do Cambridgeshire County Council have to do further due diligence on these proposals?</li> </ul>
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	Councillor Alex Beckett, Chair of Highways and Transport Committee	Mr Leigh Carter	To be provided at the meeting.
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3.	Mr Paul Ormerod	Councillor Bryony Goodliffe, Chair of Children and Young People Committee	As a Harston resident, I would like to ask whether the County Council has considered, and the Education and Transport Departments have reported, on the impact of EWR construction works, and the subsequent EWR line operation, on access to uninterrupted and undisturbed education for the County's children? For example the projected line construction works will surround Comberton Village College, and Costain says the work will go on for possibly 5-16 years at least, and the line will operate regular trains very close to the school thereafter. In addition it is expected that many other schools in the county will be detrimentally affected by this line and its construction and operation. Will the Council's Education, Transport and other relevant Departments report on the effect that this EWR line is likely to have on children's access to education, the impact on learning and their career prospects?

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	Councillor Bryony Goodliffe, Chair of Children and Young People Committee	Mr Paul Ormerod	To be provided at the meeting.
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4.	Ms Georgia Orwell on behalf of Cambridgeshire Families for Sustainable Travel  [Question to be read by Sarah Hughes]	Councillor Alex Beckett, Chair of Highways and Transport Committee	<p>“School Streets” and 20mph zones around schools have been shown to improve safety and encourage active travel in the final part of children’s journeys to school and nursery. However, most children in Cambridgeshire live outside the immediate radius of their school. Therefore, they are forced to use the current network of badly maintained pavements, unreliable and patchy bus networks, inappropriate shared cycle/footways and many 30mph roads (including in central Cambridge) on a daily basis. This is compounded by poor driver behaviour with speeding, phone use at the wheel, pavement parking, driving into cycle boxes at traffic lights, not giving way to pedestrians where required to, and close-passing families on bicycles all at epidemic levels.</p> <p>Given that private car use is increasing in the city and wider county, with no hope or plan for this to change in the near to mid term future, what is being done to prioritize safety along the whole journey to school for children and families in Cambridgeshire?</p>
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	Councillor Alex Beckett, Chair of Highways and Transport Committee	Ms Georgia Orwell On behalf of Cambridgeshire Families for Sustainable Travel	To be provided at the meeting.

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5.	Mrs Sarah Hughes, Cambridgeshire Sustainable Travel Alliance	Councillor Alex Beckett, Chair of Highways and Transport Committee	<p>I'd like to speak on behalf of Cambridgeshire Sustainable Travel Alliance (31 organisations active in the areas of transport, environment and health) about 20mph zones and the withdrawal of funding for air quality monitoring as follows:</p> <p>Cambridgeshire Sustainable Travel Alliance believes that everyone should be able to choose to make everyday journeys in a way that promotes health for all. Two motions at today's meeting – those that address DFT guidance on the introduction of 20mph zones and the reduction in funding for air quality monitoring – are relevant in this regard.</p> <p>The speed at which people drive is the most important factor affecting whether a collision occurs and the extent to which people are injured. Reducing speed limits to 20mph reduces deaths and injuries for all road users. In the two years after Edinburgh introduced a 20mph speed limit across many parts of the city, road deaths reduced by almost a quarter and serious injuries by a third. The 20mph scheme in London has also reduced death or serious injuries by 25%, with particularly significant impacts for vulnerable road users in particular. Collisions involving people walking decreased by nearly two-thirds – a very large percentage.</p> <p>20mph zones also promote health by encouraging more people to walk, wheel or cycle, People who travel actively have lower levels of serious long-term health conditions and better mental health and wellbeing. Recent surveys carried out for active travel charity Sustrans' Walking and Cycling Index 2023 showed that upwards of two-fifths of people want to walk, wheel or cycle more across the UK. The same survey explored what people thought would help them to do this. Around half said they would find more streets with 20mph speed limits useful to help them to walk, wheel or cycle more (54% and 52% respectively). Monitoring of existing 20mph schemes has shown this to be the case. Journeys by foot and by cycle increased by 7% and 5% in South Edinburgh, for example, after implementation of a 20mph zone.</p> <p>Lastly, everyone benefits from better air quality. Levels of major air pollutants reduce when more people are able to walk, wheel and cycle, rather than drive. Levels of</p>

			<p>particulate emissions drop in 20mph zones when driving is smoother. Monitoring is central to any air quality improvement strategy, therefore the withdrawal in funding for air quality monitoring is disappointing.</p> <p>Cambridgeshire Sustainable Travel Alliance would like to see authorities working to create streets and places that promote healthy lives for everyone. What steps will this Council take with respect to transport to achieve this goal?</p>
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	Councillor Alex Beckett, Chair of Highways and Transport Committee	Mrs Sarah Hughes, Cambridgeshire Sustainable Travel Alliance	To be provided at the meeting.
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6.	Ms Claire Coates, Expansion Liaison Officer, Cambourne Village College	Councillor Alex Beckett, Chair of Highways and Transport Committee	<p><b>West Cambourne Swansley Lane Improvements</b></p> <p>A plan is in progress to create a full-length cycle lane along Swansley Lane, Cambourne to improve access to Cambourne Village College and Hardwick &amp; Cambourne Primary School for cyclists and pedestrians. This plan is supported by the Schools, Developer, and Town and District Councils. Tam Parry, County Transport Assessment Team, has written to Highways England to request approval for redirection of funds from the S106 Cambourne Development to enable this.</p> <p>a) If this approval is received, will the County Council confirm that the identified funds will be redirected to the afore-mentioned improvements?</p> <p>b) Will the County Council's Highways Team accept that the proposed improvements offer great benefit to school pupils, and therefore look flexibly at the implementation of the latest County Council Specifications for cycle lanes, to enable the proposed path to be built as quickly as possible?</p>



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