

County Council – 21st March 2023

Item 6 – Petitions

Text of the petition titled ‘Save the Green Corridor! Cambourne to Cambridge – bus lane not busway’ containing 2,407 signatures (783 from ‘local people’)

This petition is presented by Cambridge Past, Present and Future and supported by an alliance of organisations including the Parish Councils of Coton and Hardwick, The Coton Busway Action Group, Coton Loves Pollinators and Save the West Fields.

The Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) want to build a new road from Cambourne to Cambridge (C2C). The road is only for buses (known as a busway). The proposed route will cut through fields, woodland and an ancient orchard. It will irreversibly damage landscape, views and habitats. It will bring unjustified urbanisation to the village of Coton – and it will cost a minimum of £200 million.

This C2C off-road busway would be a tragedy ...

For wildlife and local ecology ...

- causes significant destruction of scrub, meadow and woodland habitats
- desecrates an ancient orchard – where no amount of new planting can compensate for the loss
- bisects priority Green Corridors – which are key to ecological recovery
- carves up Green Belt land with restrictive covenants in favour of the National Trust

For local heritage and local people ...

- ruins some of loveliest, most unspoiled views anywhere around Cambridge
- encroaches on paths used by walkers
- imposes unjustified urbanisation on the rural, historic village of Coton

For taxpayers and commuters ...

- does not make journey times to Cambridge significantly faster – a difference of only 1.5–3.5 minutes between on-road and off-road routes
- does not provide easy journeys to actual destinations apart from the West Cambridge Campus
- does not take into account current road usage data or evolving working–commuting patterns
- has a minimum price tag of £200 million and a benefit–cost ratio of only 0.43 – so is poor value for taxpayers' money

But it doesn't have to be that way.

There is a viable alternative route, along existing transport corridors which:

- is less damaging to the environment
- is far less expensive
- also offers better journeys to actual destinations.

The new bus road has been consistently rejected by the general public at every stage of consultation. And yet the GCP continues to pursue this option, comparing it only to the option of doing almost nothing.

We support improved transport networks around the fast-developing city of Cambridge, but do not accept that this off-road busway is the best or only solution.

We call on the Greater Cambridge Partnership/Cambridgeshire County Council to listen to public opinion, save the green corridor, spare the orchard and find a better solution.

Text of the petition titled 'Cambridgeshire Residents Group (CRG) Demands from Cambridgeshire County Council a Referendum on the Proposed Congestion Charge!' containing 15,663 signatures

IT'S THE ONLY FAIR WAY!

NO MATTER WHAT YOU HAVE SIGNED BEFORE, THIS ONE WILL MAKE THE DIFFERENCE. PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO ADD YOUR VOICE ONCE AGAIN!!

The Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership are proposing to introduce a £5 daily congestion charge in Cambridge from (7am-7pm) Monday - Friday. This will impact households and businesses who are already struggling in the current financial climate.

Our group believes this to be an ill-considered scheme that will cause untold hardship and inconvenience for the majority of our community within the city and beyond.

A vote is critical because previous consultations appear to be weighted to provide a particular outcome and are NOT to be trusted, the only way to stop this is by petitioning for a referendum. Section 116 of the Local Government Act 2003 enables the Council to undertake a referendum.

HELP US BLOCK THE CHARGE!! OPEN REFERENDUM NOT SELECTIVE CONSULTATION! IMPORTANT!