



Foxton Parish Council

Foxton Village Hall

Hardman Road

Foxton

Cambridge

CB22 6RN

19th May 2021

FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

EAST WEST RAIL CONSULTATION RESPONSE

Regarding the East West Rail second non-statutory consultation Foxton Parish Council would like you to consider the following comments and observations in relation to the Section E (Harlton to Hauxton) and section F (The Shelford's to Cambridge Station) part of the rail line.

General comment

Once again with infrastructure development in South Cambridgeshire everybody else gets the gain and we only get the pain. With no stations on the line in the majority of South Cambridgeshire anywhere near to Foxton this new rail line does not serve the communities of south Cambridgeshire at all. The stations at both Cambridge and Cambourne are 8 miles and 14 miles away respectively.

If this line must approach Cambridge from the south a new station at Harston together with new bus and cycle routes would probably provide benefit to south Cambridgeshire residents and encourage those same residents to make use of the new line.

Electrification of the line

It seems to make little sense not to electrify this new rail line from the outset. Why not run with the green agenda now and remove all the emissions from diesel trains. Deferring this decision will just incur extra costs in the future and cause pollution.

Northern approach route into Cambridge

Foxton Parish Council does not think that the northern approach route into Cambridge as proposed by the CambBedRailRoad Consortium has been properly and fully considered.

The Northern route into Cambridge could be made to serve the new and growing communities to the north west of Cambridge where much of the satellite developments around Cambridge have taken place in recent years. This would also link up with the idea of the Oxford to Cambridge development arc and would help to provide the infrastructure needed to support the arc.

Effects on the local area

South Cambridgeshire is made up of large areas of grade 2 agricultural land and any loss of land due to this rail development is detrimental to local food production at a time when national government is looking to increase local food production.

85% of the world's chalk streams are in the south and east of England and many of these chalk streams are in South Cambridgeshire. These rare habitats are currently under threat from water extraction and development so any disruption by this rail line could be disastrous. It should also be noted that between Harlton and Harston is a flood plain and during this last winter the whole area was underwater for many months so any embankments must not

block the free flow of water when in full flood. Failure to do this will cause additional flooding in the larger surrounding area.

The route of this rail line through South Cambridgeshire and specifically through the area close to Foxton and Harston will mostly be on raised embankments. These banks have been described locally as the Great Wall of China because they will cut the local area in half and have a very detrimental effect on the views and landscape. Foxton Parish Council requests that East West Rail reconsiders the design to reduce the visual impact perhaps on viaducts rather than embankments.

Finally, the proposed road diversions and closures will cause significant problems for travel by car and other motorised transport. Specifically, the 2 roads from Newton to Harston, plus the road between Hauxton and Shelford provide an alternative route into Cambridge for residents of Foxton and surrounding villages. These roads are now widely used as the A10 is so congested and dangerous. Many people have no choice but to use these roads so diverting Harston road out of Newton back to the A10 south of Harston will just cause people to go round in a circle. This diversion will also make it almost impossible for users of this road to turn right on to the A10 due to congestion caused by the Foxton level crossing on the Kings Cross line (less than a mile away).

Summary

As you can see Foxton Parish Council has some very real concerns and we would ask that you please respond to us and specifically answer each of our concerns.

Annabel Wright
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