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31<sup>st</sup> October 2019

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## Great Shelford Parish Council

Dear Sirs

### **Re Public consultation | Cambridge South East Transport project**

Great Shelford Parish Council wish to make the following response to the Public Consultation document.

The Parish Council fully support the proposal to make transport into Cambridge a much less stressful occupation, especially along the key routes. In our area this means the A1301 and a very minor last bit of the A1307. At present our routes are A1301 with links North along the Haverhill Road, Hinton Way and Granham's Road. The bus route takes us further to the new Addenbrookes Road. Park and Ride go from Babraham (using Haverhill Road for access) or Trumpington (using A1301 for access). We have a very popular Rail link via Great Shelford Station; this would be even more popular if more trains stopped or a light railway went through this route. At present the A1301 is gridlocked until around 9:00am, the A1307 is only accessible because it is stationary from Granham's Road into town, and the level crossings make most journeys longer than necessary.

With due respect, the proposed route across the last section to the new Cambridge South Station to make the link to Cambridge makes no sense for us as it bypasses us. The route has obviously no benefit to Great Shelford or Stapleford residents as the only way to access the buses is to cycle to the two proposed stops. Anyone who can cycle at present will continue to use the existing cycle paths to get to their destination. They will not go the longer route to access a bus they have to pay for to do a journey that is perfect now. Therefore the proposed passengers are not cyclists! This being the case, who are the passengers for these final two stops?

As stated, we recognise the need to make access for villages further out of Town, but really fail to see why the route has to environmentally destroy the protected areas north of Stapleford and Great Shelford. The environmental cost is far in excess of the benefits. Routing the busway across the only three routes we have into Cambridge means that:

- During the build time (probably over a year) we are cut off from Cambridge, Addenbrookes, the Biomedical campuses, etc as the three roads are crossed.
- Each of the three roads will have a crossing on them, controlled by lights we assume, which adds to the congestion especially as two of the roads already have level crossings in Great Shelford.
- Stops are to be built with disabled parking at Stapleford, which impact the protected views and the environment.
- The route itself cuts the Green Belt making an unsightly and unnecessary blot on the environment and causing enormous negative impact to the wild life and fauna of the area.

The slightly less impact result would be to route in a cutting from Sawston to the new CS Station. This will obviously have financial impact to the scheme and will still not solve the problem of benefit to the two villages of Great Shelford and Stapleford.

Our request to you is that you relook and cost the light railway route or busway using the disused railway line. We agree that in places this would be single track but in todays digital age there seems no reason why the buses or light rail cannot be electronically controlled with passing places where necessary. This system worked for decades with the railway lines and a baton to pass so digital control seems very simple. There is still a route, including bridge width, for a single light rail to run through this route.

Our conclusion is that the proposal you are pushing through is the one that you find the simplest and cheapest to construct with no consideration to the residents of the area you are destroying. At no time have you consulted directly on this last part of the scheme. All attention has been on the travel hubs, park and rides, the A1307 and the route from Sawston out of town.

We feel that this proposal is wrong and would ask that you take a more realistic and holistic view in your reassessment of your plans.

Yours sincerely

Mike Winter  
Parish Clerk  
On behalf of  
Great Shelford Parish Council