

East West Railway Company
Great Minster House
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Westminster
SW1P 4DR

10 March 2021

Mr M Watson
Chair
Great Shelford Parish Council
7 London Road
Great Shelford Cambridge
CB22 5DB
By email - clerk@greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk

Dear Mr Watson

Thank you for your letter and for sharing the concerns of your Parish around the East West Rail project. Please find below answers to each of the points you raise.

Regarding the meeting requested by the Council, I am aware that a meeting between representatives of the Council, the residents Action Group, and our Strategy and Sponsorship Director, Will Gallagher, took place on Thursday 18 February. I am pleased to have read that you found the meeting informative, and I hope all attendees did as well.

At the time of your letter, my understanding is that my colleague Jordi Beascochea and the Clerk of the Council, Mike Winter, had been in discussions since 12 January to first agree on the format of the meeting, and then since 26 January to agree on a date and time. Confirmation from the Council on the format was not received until 20 January. Our suggested timings were then passed onto the Clerk via phone call on 26 January, after which there was no response. A specific set of dates and times were provided to the Clerk on 1 February.

I have raised the issue with Jordi and the External Affairs team and they will liaise with Mike to ensure you are included in and notified of all future communications we address to the Council.

In answer to your question around our correspondence with the Council in the lead up to the 2019 non-statutory consultation, we addressed our communications to the former Chair, Michael Nettleton, in post at the time. All our correspondence, comprising both emails and physical letters, were sent to Mr Nettleton, who should have received the following:

- a) An email invitation to a phone pre-briefing, sent on Monday 28 January 2019,
- b) An email and a physical letter providing notification of the consultation, sent during w/c 28 January 2019, and
- c) An email invitation to a Parish workshop in Haslingfield, sent in February 2019.

With respect to your question around the locations selected for the 2019 non-statutory consultation exhibition events, these were chosen based on their proximity to the route options and the overall distribution within the consultation area, to ensure a relatively even geographic spread. The events were open to everyone and the venues were selected based on their suitability as a community facility, disabled access, general accessibility (e.g. transport links) to the wider community and availability. To maximise attendance and participation, the exhibition events were held on different days and times, including Saturdays.

Finally, in regard to the distribution of postcards notifying communities of the start of the 2019 non-statutory consultation, as is standard practice with large-scale mail-outs, we provided Royal Mail with a shapefile (a digital map) of the consultation area. Royal Mail supplied us with the number of addresses in the consultation area and we arranged for the appropriate number of postcards to be printed and supplied to Royal Mail for distribution. Consistent with standard practice, Royal Mail do not supply a breakdown for individual conurbations within a distribution area, so we do not hold the specific numbers for any villages. That being said, we can confirm that each of the following villages were included on the shapefile sent to Royal Mail:

- Great Shelford
- Little Shelford
- Newton
- Hauxton
- Harston

In addition to the distribution of postcards, we also placed advertisements detailing event dates and outlining the project in key local publications, including Cambridge News on 6 February 2019. Furthermore, we sent a press release to a broad range of local, national and rail industry publications and outlets. Overall, the consultation was covered 140 times in local and national papers and news programmes.

Thank you for writing to us and raising these important issues. We are very mindful of the crucial role Town and Parish Councils play in communities across the EWR route and we look forward to further talking to you at the upcoming non-statutory consultation, which we are aiming to hold in the next few months.

I hope you find the above useful and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any additional questions in the meantime.

Yours sincerely



Simon Blanchflower CBE
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Anthony Browne MP
James Palmer, Mayor Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
South Cambridgeshire District Council
Cambridgeshire County Council