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7 London Road
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CB22 5DB

Great Shelford Parish Council

1st February 2021

By email only

Simon Blanchflower
East West Rail Company

Dear Mr Blanchflower

Allow me to introduce myself. I am the chairman of Great Shelford Parish Council. My village is rather important to your plans for the Central Section of the East West Mainline. As page 20 of your consultation document says “all of the route options shortlisted for consultation approach Cambridge from the south by connecting to the West Anglia Main Line either at or slightly to the north of Shepreth Junction (where the Hitchin-Cambridge and West Anglia lines meet) or to the south of Great Shelford”. Self-evidently, this includes chosen Option E.

On 23rd December 2020, the Parish Clerk (Mike Winter) contacted your company asking for a meeting. After chasing (including by the office of Anthony Browne MP), he received a call and follow up email on 12th January from Jordi Beascochea. He offered a meeting with Will Gallagher (Strategy and Sponsorship Director), over the next couple of weeks, to address any concerns that local residents have been raising with the Parish Council.

We have chased since and the Parish Clerk has spoken to Jordi, but we are still waiting for a date. Please would you ensure that our request now gets treated with the urgency it deserves both as regards arranging a meeting date and the meeting itself?

You may wonder why you have not hear from Great Shelford before. A number of residents have been asking this too and whilst this will not be the subject of the meeting we are seeking with your company, it would help me in explaining the Parish Council’s position to residents to:

- a) Be able to explain why the Parish Council has no record of the letter your public feedback report says was sent to it (see its appendix 2a). I would be grateful for whatever evidence you have that a letter was sent to the Parish Council;
- b) Understand why your company decided that it was not appropriate to hold a consultation meeting in 2019 in Great Shelford. I am aware that one was held in Cambridge itself, but I note that we are a separate community of around 5,000 residents and were known to be potentially affected by every one of the potential routes under consideration. Consultation meetings were also held in (most relevantly) Bassingbourn (population around 4,000), Cambourne and Orwell (population around 1,400). Cambourne was potentially affected by only two of the proposed routes and Bassingbourn and Orwell by three of them.

As the Parish Council did not become aware of the 2019 consultation until after it had closed, it would also be helpful for me to know how many Great Shelford residents should have received consultation postcards and therefore might have chosen to contact the Parish Council (although I note that the map corridor on that postcard is very wide indeed). If you are able to let me have an analysis, by full postcode, of postcards sent to CB22 that would be very helpful.

Yours sincerely

Malcolm Watson
Chair Great Shelford Parish Council

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