

From: [REDACTED]
To: [TRANSPORTINFRASTRUCTURE](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Objection to the GCP Submission for the Cambourne to Cambridge Busway
Date: 05 January 2025 16:27:34

Dear Secretary of State,

Objection to the GCP Submission for the Cambourne to Cambridge Busway

I am writing to object to the construction of the proposed Busway on an elevated crossing of the Bin Brook along the track known as the Rifle Range road. The current proposal to construct a 2.5m high embankment for this purpose could lead to a significant increase in the flood risk to the GoughWay estate and to some properties on Barton Road .

I live with my wife at [REDACTED] and we have been resident there for over 30 years. We were aware that the property had been flooded before we bought it, but it was said at the time of purchase to have been a one in 400 year occurrence. A relief channel had also been constructed and the brook had been buried in a concrete culvert under the footpath and roadway. In October 2001 there was another flood, affecting 27 properties and the sewage pumping station. We had 30cm of water in our house and had to rebuild and “tank” the ground floor to a height of 80cm. Following this flood we and several other residents personally invested in external Floodguards, and more were subsequently installed in other properties by the Environment Agency without charge.

The problem of flooding is exacerbated by the Culvert which is easily blocked by branches and rubbish in the brook which dams up against the entrance to the culvert and has to be manually removed. Further measures by the EA included an angled trash screen and the provision of solar powered camera to enable remote inspection to check whether it was blocked and a remotely viewable depth gauge upriver where it flows past the University’s Maintenance Department and Laundry Farm.

The Trash screen at the entrance to the culvert is supposed to be cleaned by the City Council’s Drainage Department and/or the EA when needed. This service has not been available for several years, presumably because of budgetary constraints. As the closest resident, I and other residents took it upon ourselves to clear the trash screen when it became blocked using telescopic rakes bought from the local Garden Centre. The trash has to be pulled up the screen with the rake and onto the track above the entrance to the culvert. It can then be added to a growing pile of branches and other debris adjacent to the Sewage Pumping station nearby. It can be heavy and dangerous work, particularly at night, because the track is muddy, slippery and can be icy in Winter. There is a risk of falling into the brook and care is needed. When the rain is heavy the brook needs cleaning every half hour.

I have also put in place a monitoring and forecasting system for heavy rain in the area. This uses commercially available weather forecasts which attempt to predict the amount of rainfall per hour in millimetres. I copy this data, almost daily, into an Excel Spreadsheet which can indicate the risk of flooding resulting from the rainfall. It is crude, but effective and is, in my view essential, particularly because people may need to know when to put up Floodguards, BEFORE an event, particularly when they are away for any reason.

Today we have been issued with a Flood Alert for Gough Way today, January 5th, at 15:45, following a modest and by no means unusual, 27.5mm of rain and snow in the last 24 hours. The level in the brook, as measured by the EA RainGauge, has risen by 0.8m in the last 11 hours. The Rain actually stopped at 14:00 and what we see in the brook is the runoff, which generally continues for four hours after the rain ceases. The brook drains water from a large area, including the M11 and increasing the size of the flood plain will only make the situation much worse.

If the busway goes ahead as planned many of us will find our homes uninsurable, unsaleable and uninhabitable. I urge you to reject the proposal as it could create an environmental disaster.

Yours faithfully, Thomas Rochford [REDACTED]

PS. I would like an acknowledgement of receipt of this email.

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