

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 March 2025 10:22
To: TRANSPORTINFRASTRUCTURE
Subject: Objection to Transport and Work Act Order to the Department for Transport (DfT) for a new busway to the southeast of Cambridge

Dear Sir or Madam,

I, Jill Butler of [REDACTED], am writing to make a formal objection to the "Application for a Transport and Work Act Order to the Department for Transport (DfT) for a new busway to the southeast of Cambridge", as submitted by the Cambridge Greater Partnership on 9 January 2025. The grounds for this objection are the following:

The construction of 5 miles of new road through open countryside is unnecessary to deliver the required improvements in transport to the expanding Cambridge Biomedical Campus. Similar transport and economic benefits can be achieved by building a version of the scheme first proposed by the applicant in 2018, which would involve instead building sections of bus lane adjacent to the A1307 and 1 mile of new road (busway). This latter scheme is much less expensive, has a much lesser environmental impact in terms of CO2 emissions relating to the construction materials required. It appears to have none of the disadvantages of the official application and would, in fact, better serve the Babraham Research Institute and the Cambridge Biomedical Campus, as regards accessibility.

This alternative scheme would also avoid:-

- a) creating a scar in the Gog Magog Hills landscape, one of the most important landscapes in the Cambridge area; building the new road through a proposed countryside park, to the detriment of its future users and nature and severing fields close to villages making them vulnerable to future development and further harm to the countryside.
- b) building two prominent bridges over the River Granta chalk stream and putting Hobson's Conduit chalk stream into a culvert.
- c) disrupting the one footpath into the countryside from Stapleford village.
- d) causing delays to traffic, to allow buses to cross, at junctions on existing roads between A1301 and A1307, especially at peak times. (In fact, neither scheme addresses the issue of extreme congestion which exists when travelling further into and out of Cambridge city at peak hours from the South).

Our councils say the main reason they have chosen the route is to serve the villages. However, the existing bus service through the centre of the village is more convenient for most villagers, as the proposed new route is well outside all the adjacent village envelopes, quite a walk in fact for most people (and the Shelfords and Stapleford have above-average-age populations) .There are concerns about more traffic passing through the villages plus more street parking, which could result if people use their cars to reach any bus stops on the proposed route There is also a fear that, in the face of the high construction and running costs of the new busway, funding for the existing bus service, and any possible improvements in that area, could be reduced

The opening of the Cambridge South Station will, in any case, improve public transport links to the biomedical campus from Shelford and villages further south. In addition, cycle routes in this area are already under construction and include the Linton Greenway which will connect Cambridge to Babraham, Granta Park and Linton; and the Sawston Greenway that will connect Cambridge to Sawston. Stapleford and Shelford are already served by the DNA cycle path.

The fundamental reason why this particular expensive plan has been promoted by the GCP, as opposed to any alternative, has not been adequately explained to local people. The only advantage appears to be to developers, for whom this would create the opportunity to open up virgin greenbelt and reap the profits from buying cheaper agricultural land with no clearance costs in order to build large numbers of houses in, what is at present, a more attractive part the county (but expensive for house purchasers!) and in doing so spoil it for ever, which would also only exacerbate congestion problems getting into the city

Please reject this application and ask the GCP to think again

yours sincerely

Jill Butler

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