From: [redacted]
To: TRANSPORTINFRASTRUCTURE
Subject: Cambourne to Cambridge Busway will increase flood risk to Gough Way Estate
Date: 06 January 2025 00:36:40

Dear Secretary of State,

We are writing to register our strong objection to The Greater Cambridge Partnership's proposal to build the Cambourne to Cambridge busway, which will involve an embankment and new bridge crossing Bin Brook. I object to the C2C busway proposal on these grounds:

We have attended a meeting where the experts explained to us that the new 2.5 metre high embankment, plus retaining walls, would increase the flood risk of the Gough Way estate; not only that, they might increase the flood risk of the whole area upstream of the embankment crossing Bin Brook. The Gough Way area has had a history of floods. We bought our house at 5 Dane Drive in 1978 and have resided in it for 47 years. There have been floods on about 3 occasions in Gough Way. In the 2001 flood 27 properties were affected. The flood risks have subsided in recent years; but a new threat has emerged in the form of a long embankment and retaining walls being proposed across Bin Brook that would stop the dispersal of water in a storm.

The Greater Cambridge Partnership know that they are proposing to build the busway across a flood plain; hence they decided to build the busway 2.5 meters above the existing bridge level over Bin Brook. Being built across a flood plain, their embankment and retaining walls will act as a dam preventing the free drainage of water in a storm in the neighbouring area such as Gough Way. In order to protect themselves against the blame of causing increased flooding for near-by areas, they put the Gough Way area outside their perceived impact zone, even though the Gough Way area is in the proximity of the embankment. Between 1990 and 2010, the houses in The Gough Way area were almost unsellable, because very few insurance companies were, at that time, willing to insure the Gough Way houses against flood risk (post code CB3 9__ including those houses that had never been flooded). This 'impact' might happen again if the dam effect of the embankment stops the dispersal of storm water causing more floods. The plans submitted by the Greater Cambridge Partners for C2C busway show a great deal of irresponsibility and lack of regard for the consequences of their plans on local residents and the environment by ignoring their impact on adjacent areas like Gough Way and should not be allowed to go ahead.

Robin and Wai Kirkpatrick

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