

Public Questions for North Area Committee – Monday 13 November 2023.

**Question 1 – relates to agenda item 8 – Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) – Update on the Milton Road project**

At the GCP Executive Board Meeting on 17 March 2022 the Director of Transport agreed to support the process of prioritising a residents' parking scheme to mitigate the loss of on-street parking planned for the southern section of the Milton Road re-development which is due to be completed next year.

Following this a formal public consultation on the proposed **Milton Road Area Residents Parking Scheme** was completed on 14 November 2022 but, one year later, no results have been published. The response from the County Council Governance Team to a Freedom of Information request stated that "*the consultation analysis report is due to be presented to the GCP Executive Board and Cambridgeshire County Council's Highways & Transport committees towards the end of this year.*"

The final meeting of the GCP Executive Board this year will be on 14<sup>th</sup> December. Can councillors confirm that this item will be on the Board's agenda? If not, will they urge the GCP Director of Transport to include it?

**Question 2 - relates to agenda item 8 – Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) – Update on the Milton Road project**

Regarding parking arrangements outside the shops on Milton Road, opposite Westbrook Drive: It has been reported that the new parking bays resulting from the road redevelopment no longer have the 30 minute waiting restriction that was there previously. As a result it appears that commuter cars are occupying the bays all day thus depriving the shops of customers who used to visit regularly. The independent grocery shop has experienced a 20% drop in turnover and is in danger of closure.

Can something be done **urgently** to rectify the situation?

Can the shop apply for compensation for loss of trade?

**Question 3 – relates to agenda item 6 on the agenda - Policing and Safer Neighbourhoods**

Regarding drug dealing in the area. What action is being taken specifically to address frequent and persistent drug dealing in Histon

Road Recreation ground? The same individual can be seen on an almost daily basis dealing drugs next to the children's play area. I have personally submitted eight reports of witnessing this activity in the last few weeks alone. I no longer feel safe taking my children to the park.

#### **Question 4 – relates to agenda item 5 – Stagecoach – Bus A route**

Since the change of route for the A Bus on September 3rd, 2023, the residents along Histon Road have been quite upset and unhappy with the situation especially by Brownlow Road and Carisbrooke Road Bus stops. The residents are dependent on the A-Bus for their visits to Addenbrookes, daily or weekly as well as the outbound route for their jobs in St Ives.

When GCP planned and constructed the Histon road project for Walking, Cycling and Bus Priority, it soon became evident that the Bus was given priority with a new Bus Lane and Floating Bus stops in the northern part which led to too narrow pavements of less than 1meter and less than standard width for the cycle lanes. Instead, we were promised that the Guided Bus would stop at our bus stops along Histon Road for us to be able to reach the station and Addenbrookes in one go. This happened and for some months we were finally enjoying the long-awaited bus connection.

Stagecoach, you must then realize what a chock it was to see the note that suddenly appeared on 3 September 2023.

Since then, we have had a very unreliable service at the only Histon Road bus stop by Akeman Street. The bus has been cancelled, or it has been full and not stopping. Trying to travel from Jesus Lane outbound – the bus was already full and the next one cancelled. Often all 3 Stagecoach busses A-bus, 8 and 8A arrive at the same time and then there is a very long wait until the next opportunity. The time information at the bus stop for the A-bus did not work on October 7th.

Residents along Histon Road request that Stagecoach immediately reviews the route for the A-Bus and reinstates the Brownlow Road and Carisbrooke Road bus stops for the A-bus.

Lilian Rundblad, member of Histon Road Area Residents' Association, (HRARA).

#### **Question 5 – relates to agenda item 5 – Stagecoach – Bus A route**

Is there any potential for an increase in frequency for the Bus A route during peak times to mitigate against the bus being regularly full and not letting passengers on?

A not-unusual example from 9th November was my son, a Long Road College student, waiting at the Akeman Street bus stop for the 9:30, 9:50 and 10:10 buses, all of which refused boarding as they were full.