

MILTON ROAD - OUR RESPONSE TO THE CITY DEAL

Well, it looks like the City Deal is in for a nasty shock when they read residents' consultation responses on their plans for Milton Road and Histon Road!

And how can they be surprised, given the nasty shock they have doled out with their damaging proposals that would so badly affect the local environment and quality of life.

From our many conversations with local people it's clear that you're raising a huge range of objections about the proposals in general and specific issues such as the loss of trees and greenery, road closures and rat runs, obstacles to safe local access to schools and shops and the sheer unfairness of the fact that there is no plan to improve bus services for local people.

But it's also clear that local people also have a lot of constructive ideas which the City Deal ought to listen to.

The West Chesterton Lib Dem team is sending a response which you can read [here](#) and below. In it, we join you in objecting to the environmental and social damage the proposals would create. We also focus on what we think is a fundamental problem with the City Deal's overall transport strategy – the lack of plans for reducing congestion and creating a good bus network locally and for the whole of Greater Cambridge.

If you haven't yet submitted a response, don't leave it much longer – the consultation closes next Tuesday the 15th.

The questionnaire is at www.gccitydeal.co.uk/citydeal/info/2/transport/1/transport/8 or you can simply send an email to city.deal@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

If it helps you to make use of what we've written below, please feel free to do so!

OUR RESPONSE TO THE CITY DEAL

We address our response directly to the Council Leaders of Cambridge, South Cambridgeshire and Cambridgeshire County, who are responsible for the City Deal's transport plans and accountable for its decisions.

You hold in your hands an unprecedented opportunity to create a high quality transport system for Greater Cambridge. The City Deal is potentially a great force for good and it is your duty to make sure that its strategy is sound and the money is spent wisely and effectively.

Achieving this requires a comprehensive strategy that makes use of all the tools available to you – but that is not the path you have chosen. Your plans rely on massive and damaging engineering schemes on the city's radial roads, whilst completely failing to address the critically important problem of traffic congestion. Specifically, you have failed to develop

plans for effective, fair and sustainable 'demand management' measures to discourage car use and create a high quality bus network that gives people a good alternative to using the car.

The heavy engineering approach may be the easy option for you, but to local residents it is clear that you would rather sacrifice the quality of our local environment and community life than face up to your responsibility to develop a joined-up transport strategy fit for the long term.

City communities like ours will not tolerate the sacrifice of our quality of life as a consequence of your political weakness. We will not accept the wholesale loss of trees and greenery, the road closures, rat runs and other obstacles to safe local access to schools and shops, and the sheer unfairness in the lack of a plan to improve bus services for our local community.

We call on you to scrap your current proposals and look urgently at how to reduce the volume of traffic on the city's roads. We are ready to work constructively with you on this. We want to see a detailed evaluation of all demand management options, including congestion charging. This will provide the necessary evidence base for any infrastructure improvements that may be required for Milton Road and elsewhere.

We call on you to choose the most effective, fair and sustainable demand management option, and work up detailed proposals for its early implementation.

As we have already requested, we also look to you also to draft and consult the public about an Environmental Design Guide. This should set out clear principles which guarantee that any future proposals for Milton Road protect and improve our street as a green and pleasant community environment.

And we look to you to secure better bus services for our local community as well as for people travelling into Cambridge.

With these building blocks in place, we will work collaboratively with you to develop intelligent proposals, based on clear evidence, for appropriate infrastructure improvements that enable buses and other road users to flow efficiently along our streets.