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Bedfordshire Local Representatives Group

Meeting #10

05 June 2023

01.
Welcome and today's
agenda

Today's agenda

01.
Welcome and today's agenda

02.
Housekeeping

03.
General updates

04.
Topic – Route Update Announcement

05.
Review of actions from meeting #9

06.
Closing remarks, future meetings and topics

02. Housekeeping

Housekeeping

Thank you for joining

This is a virtual meeting.

Please display your full name as when you registered to attend – this can be done through the ‘Participants’ section.

To help everyone feel part of the discussion, please feel free to turn your camera on during the meeting if you can.

Please use the ‘Raise Hand’ function to raise a question during the meeting, found in the bottom ribbon (under the ‘Reactions’ option).

This meeting will be recorded



Display your full name in username



Please use the mute function



Use the ‘Raise Hand’ function if you want to raise a point during the meeting



Please do put your camera on if possible

03. General updates

Since our last meeting

- Local elections held- and welcome to the newly elected LRG members.
- Reviewed membership against ward boundary changes.
- East West Rail Accessibility Advisory Panel met for their first session in April.

- ⑩ **On 26th May**, we published the route update for East West Rail (EWR)
- ⑩ A webinar for LRGs was held on 26th- recording of this can be found on the Community Hub page

Alongside the [Route Update Report](#), a range of factsheets and updated maps, we've published several other related documents- all found on the East West Rail website.

- The 2021 [Consultation Feedback Report](#)
- The EWR [Economic and Technical Report](#)
- The [Need to Sell Property Scheme Guide](#)



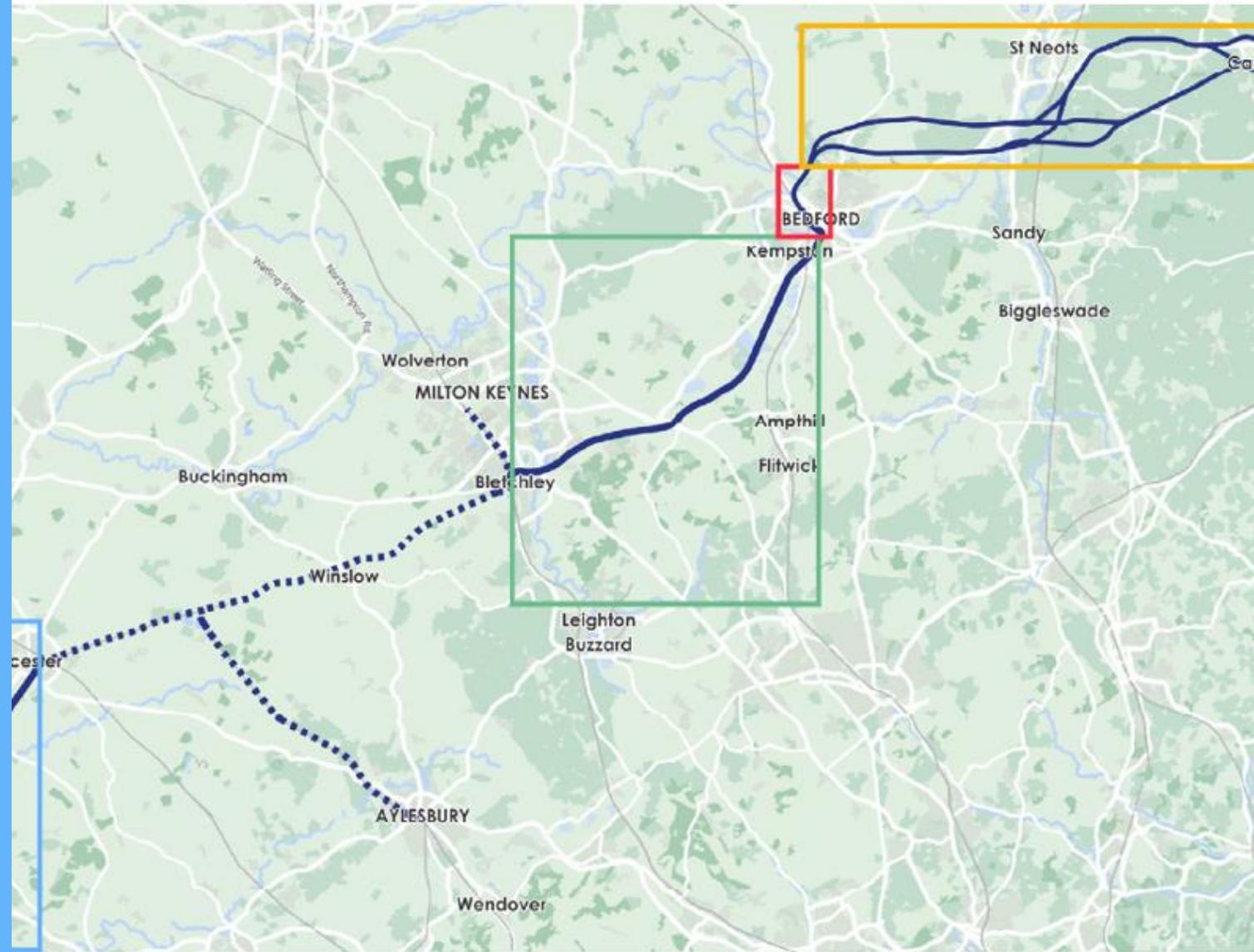
Introduction

Since the non-statutory public consultation on East West Rail in 2021, we've carefully reviewed feedback and used it, alongside a strategic review of the Project, to guide our developing plans to design a railway that meets the needs of communities between Oxford and Cambridge.

We've made some changes to the proposals we presented in 2021, which take account of:

- Feedback received during and since the 2021 consultation
- Further technical and environmental work
- The analysis undertaken as part of the Affordable Connections Project

Following that work, we are now sharing a number of updates about EWR.



- Project section A:
Oxford to Blicester
- Project section B:
Blotchley & Marston Vale Line
- Project section C:
Bedford

Legend

-  New East West Rail Station
-  Network Rail Station
-  East West Rail alignment
-  Potential future section of EWR
-  Existing Railway



What have we announced?

Route Update Report

The report describes how the proposals for EWR have developed since the 2021 consultation and what our preferred plans for certain sections of the railway are, including:

- Route preferences
- Route-wide matters
- What happens next



Associated Reports

Alongside the Route Update Report, we're also publishing:

- The 2021 Consultation Feedback Report
- The EWR Economic and Technical Report
- The 2021 Need to Sell Property Scheme



A little more on the Need to Sell Scheme

2023 Route Update Announcement

We have launched our Need to Sell Property Scheme, for home and property owners with a compelling need to sell.

This will allow people to sell their home or small business to EWR Co while the Project is in development and delivery, where they been unable to do so other than at a substantially reduced value because of the EWR Project.

Telephone number – 0330 838 7583

Email – land@eastwestrail.co.uk

Postal Address:

One Grafton Mews

Midsummer Boulevard

Milton Keynes

MK9 1FB



Route preferences

We've made some changes to the proposals we presented in 2021, which take account of:

- Feedback received during and since the 2021 consultation.
- Further technical and environmental work.
- The analysis undertaken as part of the Affordable Connections Project.



04.

Topic- Route Update Announcement

Rob Milner, Development Programme Manager CS3
Mohamad Alserdare, Programme Manager Bedford

Bedford St Johns

Bedford St Johns station

During the 2021 consultation we presented two options to relocate Bedford St Johns station

- **Option 1:** Relocating Bedford St Johns to the west, closer to Bedford Hospital between Ampthill Road and Cauldwell Street.
- **Option 2:** Relocating Bedford St Johns to the south on the existing railway alignment close to Ampthill Road/Elstow Road pedestrian link bridge.

Our preference remains Option 1, which will bring a brand new station for Bedford Hospital, making life easier for NHS staff, patients and visitors.



Bedford alignments

Considering alternatives to serve central Bedford

Following consultation feedback in 2021, we carefully considered whether an alignment passing to the south of Bedford might be a better option than an alignment going through Bedford station.

We looked in detail at the two most promising alignments:

- **Varsity Hybrid alignment:** This alignment option would pass to the south of the town. It would relocate Bedford St Johns station further east and would make use of part of the route of the former Varsity Line.
- **Varsity Hybrid via A421 alignment:** This option would be similar to the Varsity Hybrid alignment above, however, when travelling east it would more closely follow the A421, aiming to limit impacts on the environment.



Bedford area environmental constraints

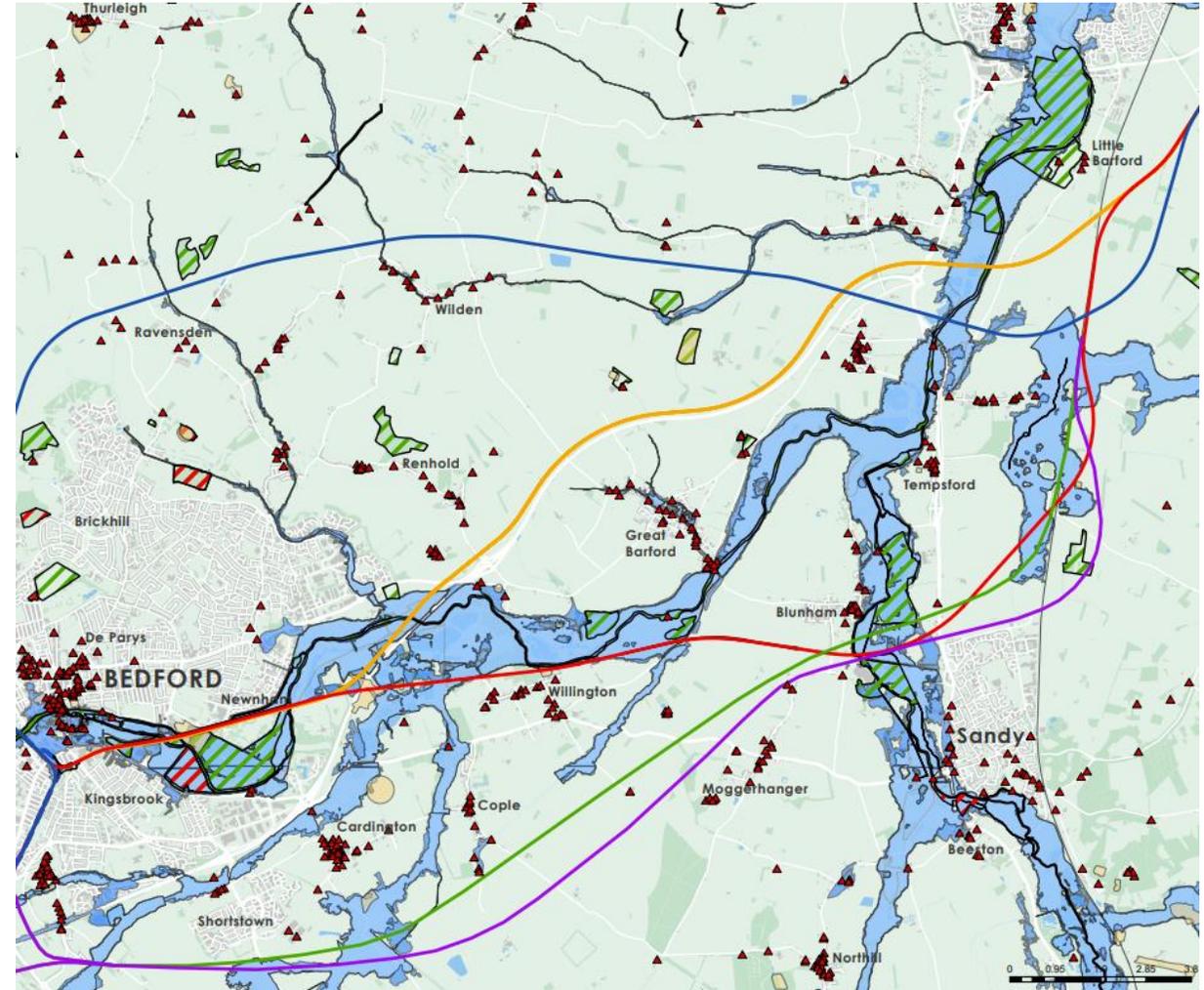
Environmental impact of alternative alignments

Both alternative alignments have significant environmental impacts and require land to be taken from parks and other green spaces.

This includes increased flood risk, as the Varsity Line is in the flood plain of the River Great Ouse. Embankments here could increase the risk of flooding in Bedford and would require viaducts to be built.

Impact on connectivity

Bypassing Bedford town centre would reduce the opportunity to interchange with Thameslink or East Midlands Railway services, reducing access to destinations further afield.



Bedford to Cambourne

Connecting Bedford and Cambourne

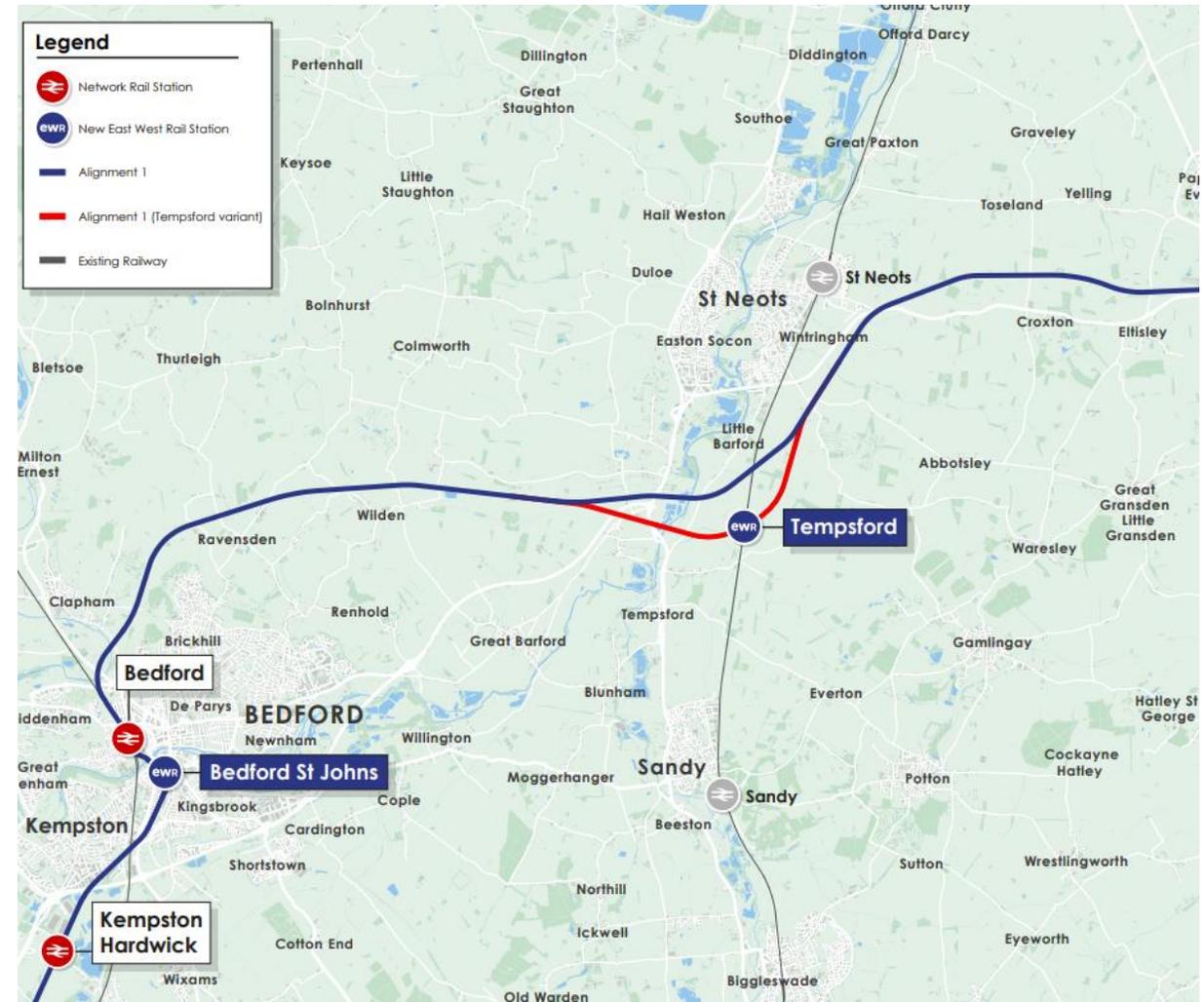
We've reviewed feedback from the 2021 public consultation and undertaken further analysis.

This found that **Alignment 1** performs better than all other alignments we've considered for this section of the route.

We've also identified a significant opportunity for economic growth around the interchange between EWR and East Coast Main Line (ECML).

This work has found that a station at Tempsford should be preferred to one at St Neots South, even though it is not served by existing designs for Alignment 1.

We've therefore developed a local variation of the alignment – known as Alignment 1 (Tempsford variant) – which will be taken forward for further development.



What happens next?

We still have work to do and are carrying out more surveys and investigations to help us design the Project in more detail.

These will be vital in providing information for our assessments, which will underpin the information presented at the statutory consultation our subsequent DCO application.

We'll develop our design based on feedback received from the two previous consultations and continuing environmental, economic and technical studies.

There will be further opportunity for you to comment on our proposals during the statutory consultation.



What happens next?

Future consultation

We plan to start the statutory consultation on the preferred route and associated infrastructure in the first half of 2024.

This will provide a further opportunity for you to share your views with us.

In the meantime, we'll continue to engage with local communities and stakeholders to help us refine the design before inviting the public to submit further feedback.

Consultation feedback will be carefully considered when finalising our proposals.

Application for a Development Consent Order (DCO)

A Development Consent Order (DCO) is a piece of law that gives authority to East West Railway Company (EWR Co) to build the new railway.

This means that we're required to make an application for a DCO to obtain permission to construct and operate the railway.

The application will be made to the Planning Inspectorate who, on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport, will appoint a panel to examine the application.

The examination will include consideration of the likely impacts of the Project on the environment and protected habitats.

Following the examination, a recommendation will be made to the Secretary of State for Transport, who will decide whether to give consent for the Project.

Community events in your area

Date	Time	Venue
13 June 2023	2pm – 8pm	Bedford Heights Manton Lane, Bedford, MK41 7NT
20 June 2023	2pm – 8pm	Ravensden Village Hall Church Hill, Ravensden, MK44 2RL
07 July 2023	2pm – 8pm	Tempsford Stuart Memorial Village Hall Church Street, Tempsford, SG19 2AW
20 July 2023	2pm – 8pm	Love's Farm 17 Kester Way, St Neots, PE19 6SL

Questions or comments

05. Review of actions from meeting #9

Completed actions

Meeting	No.	Action	Owner	Status
#9	1	EWR Co to speak to the EWR Alliance and confirm where in the project's lifecycle soft landscaping was planted on CS1.	EWR Co	Closed – An update will be provided during Meeting #10.
#9	2	EWR Co to send out a poll for Group members to vote to decide if Meeting #10 should take place during the pre-election period and if so, if it should be used to discuss the topic of methods of community engagement. The poll will also be used for Group members to put forward suggestions for topics they would like to see covered.	EWR Co	Closed – Poll closed and meeting postponed until after the Rout Update Announcement.

06.

**Closing remarks, future
meetings and topics**

Next Steps

Topics for future discussion:

Meeting #11 onwards: Next stages of engagement: your input in the activity. Active Travel solutions

Agreed frequency: Every 6 weeks

Meeting notes circulated within 10 days, feedback requested within 10 days. 5 working days amending process, posted on Hub

We're always here

All the Group's relevant documents will be available on its **Community Hub** site.

We will notify you when available.



Got a question?

If you have any questions about the Group, please email:

localrepresentativesgroups@eastwestrail.co.uk

If you have any questions about the project, please email:

contact@eastwestrail.co.uk

Or you can also call us on **0330 134 0067**

Guide to the Community Hub

A Guide to the Community Hub



Go to eastwestrail.co.uk, click 'Community Hub'

Click 'Read more' under 'Groups: Local Representatives Groups' to reach the LRG homepage and see what has been discussed and shared at all Local Representative Groups.

Our partners Careers Contracts Library **Community Hub** Get in touch

east west rail

What is EWR - Benefits Proposed Route - Our Approach - News - | Q

East West Rail will make it easier to reach the things that matter most.

From connecting people with jobs and education to simply seeing friends and family, East West Rail will help communities flourish sustainably.

↓

Welcome to the Community Hub

It's an interactive space for us to share news on local events, a platform for you to share thoughts and where you can discover more about initiatives in and around the communities that East West Rail will serve.

First, you'll need to [register here](#). Your information will be kept safe and your identity anonymous.

Ready to get going? Pick a topic and join in the conversation below.

Get involved

Accessibility Advisory Panel

We want to build a better and more inclusive railway which works for everyone.

[Read more](#)

Groups: Local Representatives Groups

Learn about what's being discussed and shared at your nearest Local Representatives Group.

[Read more](#)

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A Guide to the Community Hub



Local Representatives Groups home page contains:

- Contact information
- Full route map
- Information for all 15 Local Representative Groups can be found by clicking the Group name

Welcome to the Local Representatives Groups home page



Here at East West Railway Company (EWR Co), we're passionate about hearing what local representatives and their communities think about East West Rail (EWR). It means we can work together as we build a successful project that will deliver shorter journey times, lower transport costs and ease pressure on local roads while bringing people closer to the things that matter most – jobs, friends and family.

We've set up 15 Local Representatives Groups in all areas along the route where we will deliver EWR. The Groups include Councillors, Parish and Town Councils, and representatives from EWR Co. They offer an open forum for discussions – a place to share information, ask questions, cover any concerns people might have and get answers. They also allow us to give project updates and understand details of all relevant local issues.

The Groups are just one of the ways local communities can connect with our team through their representatives during all stages of the project, including planning, construction and operation of the railway.

Find out what's happening in each Group

You can stay up to date with what's happening in each Group by using the links below. Each Group has its own dedicated site which include agendas, meeting summary notes, Terms of Reference, maps, presentations, and other reference material to support the meetings.

Local Representatives Groups:

- [Bedford Marston Vale](#)
- [Bedford Town](#)
- [Bedfordshire](#)
- [Bicester Town](#)
- [Bletchley / Milton Keynes South](#)
- [Buckinghamshire](#)
- [Cambourne & Surrounding Areas](#)
- [NEW: Cambridge City & Surrounding Areas](#)
- [Central Bedfordshire / Marston Vale](#)
- [Huntingdonshire / South Cambridgeshire](#)
- [Milton Keynes North](#)
- [NEW: Oxford City & Surrounding Areas](#)
- [Sandu, Tempsford & St Neots](#)
- [South Cambridgeshire East](#)
- [South Cambridgeshire West](#)

Get In Touch

Sarah Jacobs
Local Representatives Groups
Engagement Manager
Email localrepresentativesgroups@eastwestrail.co.uk

Type of Conversation

Type of conversation
Every time we start a new topic through the Community Hub, we'll let you know what type of conversation we're starting.
The type of conversation for this project is:

To discuss: Here we'll ask you for your ideas and thoughts as part of an informal discussion on specific topics.

Learn more about [East West Railway Company's Types of Conversation](#)

Local Representatives Groups - Full Route Map

[Map - Full Route \(October 2022\) \(1.21 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)

Key Dates

Bedfordshire Group - Meeting #8
07 February 2023

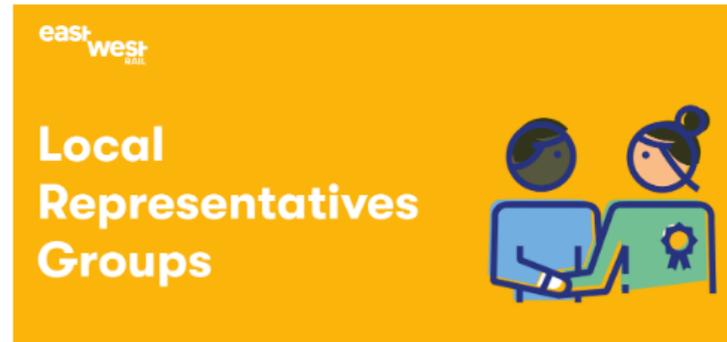
Bedfordshire Group - Meeting #7
07 December 2022

[more...](#)

Groups that have merged

- Cambridge City
- Cambridge & Surrounding Areas
- Oxford City
- Oxford & Surrounding Areas

Welcome to the South Cambridgeshire West Local Representatives Groups page



At East West Railway Company (EWR Co), we're passionate about hearing what local representatives, and their communities, think about East West Rail (EWR) so we can, together, successfully build a project that will bring faster journey times, lower transport costs and ease pressure on local roads. This will bring people closer to the things that matter most – jobs, friends, and family.

We've set up 15 Local Representatives Groups along the route where we will deliver the East West Rail project to help local communities connect with us through their representatives. The Groups include Councillors, Parish and Town Councils and representatives from EWR Co.

This is the page for the South Cambridgeshire West Group. The Group brings together all the Parishes and Councillors from the area in South Cambridgeshire District centred around the EWR alignments East of the proposed locations for Cambourne Station on the way to approaching Cambridge.

Group meeting schedule:

Meeting #1 – Monday 14 February 2022 – Welcome Meeting and Introduction to the Group

Meeting #2 – Monday 11 July 2022 – Development Consent Order (DCO) Process

Meeting #3 – Wednesday 26 October 2022 – Freight Strategy Process, and Traction Strategy Process

Meeting #4 – Monday 27 March 2023 – The Business Case Process

Find out what's happening in the South Cambridgeshire West Group.

You can stay up to date with what's happening in this Group by viewing the documents on the right of this page which include agendas, meeting notes, Terms of Reference, maps, presentations and other reference material to support the meetings. New, relevant documents will be uploaded after each meeting.

You can also find out more about the Local Representatives Groups and access other Groups' pages on our [Local Representatives Groups welcome page](#).

Page last updated: 14 Mar 2023, 12:09 PM

Agenda, Meeting Notes & Supporting Materials

- Agenda, Meeting Notes & Supporting Materials

Get in Touch

Sarah Jacobs

Local Representatives Groups
Engagement Manager

Email localrepresentativesgroups@eastwestrail.co.uk



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Local Representatives Groups - Maps

South Cambridgeshire West LRG - Full Route Map (October 2022) (1.21 MB) (pdf)

South Cambridgeshire West LRG - Electoral Divisions Map (2.67 MB) (pdf)

South Cambridgeshire West LRG - Parishes Map (2.61 MB) (pdf)

South Cambridgeshire West LRG - Wards Map (2.54 MB) (pdf)

Local Representatives Groups - Membership

South Cambridgeshire West LRG - Representatives List (109 KB) (pdf)

A Guide to the Community Hub



Group pages contain:

- A record of all meeting dates
- Agendas, meeting notes and supporting materials
- Group Maps
- Group members list
- Group Terms of Reference

Welcome to the South Cambridgeshire West Local Representatives Groups page



Agenda, Meeting Notes & Supporting Materials

Agenda, Meeting Notes & Supporting Materials

Get In Touch

Sarah Jacobs
Local Representatives Groups
Engagement Manager
Email: localrepresentativesgroups@eastwestrail.co.uk



Type of Conversation

Type of conversation

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Agenda, Meeting Notes & Supporting Materials

Meeting 1

- South Cambridgeshire West LRG - Meeting #1 - Agenda (20.6 KB) (pdf)
- South Cambridgeshire West LRG - Meeting #1 - Slides (1.59 MB) (pdf)
- South Cambridgeshire West LRG - Meeting #1 - Meeting Summary Note (193 KB) (pdf)

Meeting 2

- South Cambridgeshire West LRG - Meeting #2 - Agenda (138 KB) (pdf)
- South Cambridgeshire West LRG - Meeting #2 - Action Tracker (118 KB) (pdf)
- South Cambridgeshire West LRG - Meeting #2 - Slides (1.41 MB) (pdf)
- South Cambridgeshire West LRG - Meeting #2 - Meeting Summary Note (279 KB) (pdf)

Meeting 3

- South Cambridgeshire West LRG - Meeting #3 - Agenda (128 KB) (pdf)
- South Cambridgeshire West LRG - Meeting #3 - Action Tracker (120 KB) (pdf)
- South Cambridgeshire West LRG - Meeting #3 - Slides (1.72 MB) (pdf)
- South Cambridgeshire West LRG - Meeting #3 - Meeting Summary Note (266 KB) (pdf)

Meeting 4

- South Cambridgeshire West - Meeting #4 - Agenda (142 KB) (pdf)
- South Cambridgeshire West - Meeting #4 - Action tracker (201 KB) (pdf)

A Guide to the Community Hub



Group meeting materials are made available:

- 1 week prior to the meeting – Agenda, action tracker
- 10 days after the meeting – Meeting slides
- 25 days after the meeting – Final meeting summary note