

Richard Fuller MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

7th February 2022

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP

Prime Minister

10 Downing Street

London SW1A

Dear Prime Minister

East West Rail: Bedford to Cambridge

I am pleased to enclose a letter addressed to you from twelve Parish Councils in my constituency and endorsed by CPRE Bedfordshire.

This letter clearly demonstrates that serious concerns about the process of a 2019 consultation by East West Rail regarding a route decision from Bedford to Cambridge have not been allayed.

This consultation has been highly controversial locally: parish councils were not properly informed; the costs and rankings of route options changed markedly between the start and end of the consultation; Bedford Borough Council submitted a highly influential recommendation without consulting the elected Councillors for the affected wards.

As the letter shows, local Parishes have engaged seriously over the intervening months to get assurances over the decision processes, but these have not been forthcoming to a satisfactory level.

All options offered in the 2019 consultation traverse my constituency, so I do not make any representation for, or against, any route. I am however, concerned that this process has been deeply flawed and may result in a brutal scarring of the Bedfordshire countryside and considerable resentment from local people.

I trust and hope you will review the letter and give their representations your considered judgement.

Sincerely

Richard Fuller

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Encl:

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