

Kings Dyke Crossing Latest from Cambs CC Leader Steve Count

Letter received by LD – following a request for up to date information. I acknowledge and thank Cllr Count for giving me permission to publish his reply. It is as sent to the reciprocant and is unedited.

e-mail dated – 06th February -

Photo's (RG)©

I am sorry that you have not seen any of the updates on this project and only been able to pick up the news from the paper. The paper this week is slightly misleading and perhaps doesn't fully reflect the story to date. In fact, the news last week was good news, when the combined authority agreed to change the terms of the funding agreement to ensure the bridge is built as quickly as is possible. Keeping people informed is one of the reasons I asked Cambridgeshire County Council to create a Facebook page and why we are erecting signs on site, so that people can be kept fully informed, direct from the horse's mouth so to speak.



The picture at present is we have secured and paid for the full designs and we are now out to tender to find someone to build the bridge. This

process is well underway, and we expect construction to start by the end of this year, 2020, at the latest. Last week's decision was to reconfirm the Mayor and the Combined Authority's commitment to support Cambridgeshire County Council in building this bridge. This means as soon as the tenders come in we already have the money secured with ours alongside the Mayors to issue a contract.

Apart from the Facebook page and signage, I personally led a well-attended and reported presentation to the people of Whittlesey on August 15th 2019, where we described the journey to date and consulted the people on the best way forward. We also held the official decision-making committee in Whittlesey on August 15th, which was also at the Whittlesey Christian Church, so as many local residents were able to see our commitment to this project. From then till now we have updated the newspapers on many occasions, but it is up to them what they think is newsworthy or not. Also, as we regularly see their interpretation of facts is not always helpful, which is why we are trying to directly reach out to people via social media. I can confirm that the nothing has slipped since the updates and the decisions we made in August 2019, which will lead to construction starting this year.

I am glad you have liked our Facebook page, which I encourage you to follow and ask as many residents as possible to follow as we will maintain up to date information as it becomes available.

With regards to the bypass, this has been promoted to me before. I fully understand the reasoning and support it as a long-term aspiration. However, to build it we need a business case, funding, design and then build. Knowing how long these things it is vital that whilst others approach the combined authority and Mayor for consideration I keep my foot firmly on the pedal to deliver the bridge, to relieve the immediate pressures and congestion experienced by local people such as yourself.

If you want any further information or to discuss this further, I have copied in the two Whittlesey Councillors Cllr. David Connor and Cllr. Chris Boden, who I am sure would be willing to update you. I can assure you that they are fully engaged and work alongside with regular meetings to ensure we stay on track. And of course I can be of any further help in reassuring you I fully intend to get this built as quickly as possible, please do not hesitate in coming back to me.

Regards Steve

Steve Count
Leader of Cambridgeshire County Council
Councillor for March North
Mob; 07989 032456
email; steve.count@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Blog site; <http://cllrstevecount.wordpress.com>

