

Question to Greater Cambridge Partnership Joint Assembly
- 20 September 2018

Questions under Agenda Item 11: Place Based Public Engagement Strategy

Question 11a: From Dr Jocelynne Scutt

LLFs – Information & Communication

Milton Road Local Liaison Forum has worked closely with Milton Road Project officers and consultants. The expertise of members – particularly Milton Road Residents' Association and Hurst Park Estate Residents Association representatives and their members – has been key in ensuring that the Project is optimally shaped to meet Greater Cambridge Partnership objectives consistent with Milton Road's (and surrounding streets') character as a residential area, in addition to Milton Road's being a major link between Cambridge City and outer-lying areas.

The Consultation stage has now been reached as publicised by Twitter and on You-Tube. Members of the LLF, Residents Associations and residents have contacted me as chair of the LLF expressing concern that they learned of the Consultation's commencement through the Twitter and You-Tube publicity rather than by direct communication from the Greater Cambridge Partnership and that they had no role in the consultation format.

The GPC Engagement and LLF Review states an intention to provide a greater lead-in time 'to adequately plan and secure stakeholder buy-in [sic] prior to public consultation'. This has not resulted in engagement with Milton Road LLF and particularly Residents' Associations. This appears to have been subjugated to 'focus groups', the 'Community Sounding Board' and 'key stakeholders'. Surely the latter must include the LLF and Residents' Associations – at least their representatives on LLFs?

As LLF Chair I was notified by the GCP of the imminent release of the Milton Road Project consultation document. However, it was in its final form, no consultation occurring prior to this and not with the LLF or Residents Associations.

Does the Greater Cambridge Partnership recognise that this is not best practice and ensure that in the future – to ensure 'buy-in' – such planning includes as 'key stakeholders' LLFs and particularly Residents' Associations or at least their members on LLFs?