

The Busway Update

December 2009

Welcome to the December 2009 edition of The Busway newsletter from Cambridgeshire County Council.



Busway opening update

Busway services were not able to begin at the end of November as planned, because finishing works were not completed.

As with all building projects, construction inspections take place once work is mainly complete to identify final tasks that need to be addressed.

Much of the work identified from the inspections had been done before the end of November, but there are still some tasks that Busway contractor, BAM Nuttall, need to complete. Some of these tasks, such as adjustments to car traps, cannot be done with buses running.

Inspections of the River Great Ouse Viaduct have also shown that although the crossing is structurally sound and safe, some work is needed now to make sure the Council does not need to do more maintenance than necessary in the future.

Roy Pegram, Cambridgeshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Growth, Infrastructure and Strategic Planning, said:

"I share everyone's disappointment that The Busway could not open at the end of November, but we are clear the work must be done before the agreement to hand over the track can be signed. We want the whole

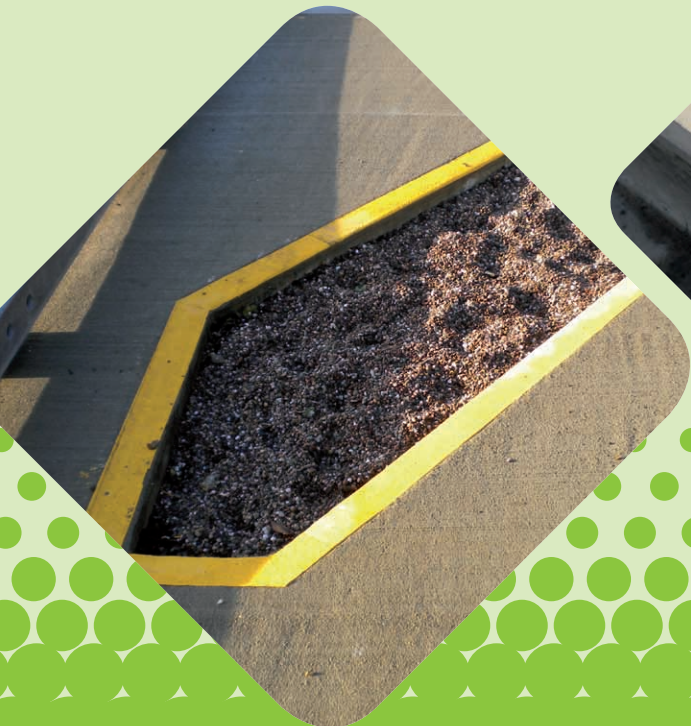
route to meet the high standards the Council and residents expect, and the contractor has promised, for many years to come.

"We are in BAM Nuttall's hands and therefore we are not able to announce another date for the opening of The Busway until the work has been done, the route signed over to us and bus services registered."

Cambridge News tour The Busway

To help residents know exactly what finishing works are needed, Chris Elliott from Cambridge News was invited to take a guided tour of The Busway site with Bob Menzies, the Council's head of delivery.

Bob and Chris talked through why it would be unwise to open The Busway until the finishing work had been addressed and a video highlighting some of the works, such as car traps, concrete repairs and adjustments to the cycleway, can be viewed by visiting www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/thebusway. Click on the community information tab. There is a link to the video on the right hand side.



Prudent plans in place for Busway

Council leaders and transport chiefs have confirmed that prudent measures are in place to cover the potential final cost of building The Busway.

Current Council forecasts show that the cost of the route, including land, could be £1.3 million over the original budget - but as costs can fluctuate up as well as down planning has been carried out for a range of outcomes around this forecast.

The first option the Council will take if The Busway does cost more than the original budget would be to seek to cover this using additional developer funding that we are currently negotiating, or Government transport funding.

Visit the news section on the County Council's homepage - www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk - for the full story.

Busway just a click away

New look Busway web pages were set up this summer to help local people get to grips with how The Busway will help them beat the frequent queues on the congested A14.

You can now plan journeys between Huntingdon, St Ives and Cambridge on The Busway with easy to use maps showing the routes guided buses will take on and off the track, as well as the stops both Stagecoach and Whippet routes will use.

The web pages also confirm ticket prices for The Busway will not cost anymore than buses travelling on ordinary roads. The Council's website even shows a YouTube video to illustrate how buses seamlessly move on and off the track.

To explore the new Busway pages please visit:
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/thebusway

Keeping you moving whatever the weather

To keep the track free from ice during the cold winter months a specially adapted gritting machine (shown on the right) will be used.

The special gritter will join the Council's new fleet and has guide wheels, like the ones on guided buses. Salted water that is already used to clear ice from some bridges in the county will be sprayed onto the track as rock salt would drop into the gap between the beams.



Inspired by Cambridgeshire

The Cambridgeshire countryside and local people have inspired the designs for special glass panels that have been installed at some of the new bus stops along The Busway track.

The RSPB at Fen Drayton Lakes, which is on The Busway route, helped fund the colourful glass panels at the Swavesey stop (shown below) where the design reflects the variety of wildlife and unique landscape that can be seen at the nearby lakes.

The glass panels at the Swavesey, Longstanton and Oakington stops are one of the four public art projects that were commissioned for The Busway. Residents, community groups and local councillors have helped make them a success by contributing to the design process.

The commitment to include public art for The Busway is part of the planning condition for the route. The intentions are to create attractive, thought-provoking places for passengers and reflect local features.



Cycle, ride and walk for work or play

The path next to The Busway track will give people another way to commute to work and escape to the Cambridgeshire countryside.

Cyclists, horse riders and pedestrians will be able to use the route from St Ives to Cambridge. The section from St Ives to Longstanton will open when bus services begin. The final stretch from Longstanton to Cambridge will open later once a road-type surface has been laid. This will take around two months to complete once The Busway opens.

What's happening down south?

One of the major engineering tasks on the southern section was to build a new underpass beneath Hills Road Bridge without closing it to traffic. Work on the surface of the bridge was completed this summer and BAM Nuttall are now working underneath the bridge.

Much of the track has been laid connecting Cambridge Railway Station, Addenbrooke's Hospital and Trumpington Park & Ride and work is continuing along the route.

Once the northern section is open BAM Nuttall will be asked to establish a more robust timetable for completing the southern section.

More news....

The next Busway newsletter will be with you in the lead up to the opening of the track connecting Huntingdon, St Ives and Cambridge. It will include the information you need to help you take advantage of the service.

There is also lots of information about the project on our webpages at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/thebusway



If you want to know more about The Busway project, or if you have questions or concerns about anything to do with construction, please contact The Busway team on 01223 716972, e-mail us on: guidedbusway@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

or write to us at:

Cambridgeshire County Council, RES 1504,
Castle Hill, Cambridge, CB3 0AP

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