



## PRESS INFORMATION

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### **EWRCo.: YOU SAID, WE IGNORED IT**

After the EWRCo. route update announcement in May 2023, EWRCo. claimed that they would take careful note of people's questions.

"Talking to local communities and listening to people's feedback and questions is at the heart of our work at East West Rail. I'm a strong believer in community involvement and I know individual residents, neighbourhoods, communities and businesses will have questions about how the proposals affect them." [Gail Buckland EWRCo. Community Engagement Manager, 16.6.2023](#)

Then again at the East West Mainline Strategic Board:

"Cllr Steve Broadbent asked how the EWR Co will be handling representations made between now and the beginning of the public consultation?"

Beth West replied that the Company is engaging with communities and that she will come back with more detailed plans which ensures engagement is as thorough as possible."

[EWRMLP Strategic Board Minutes 14.6.2023](#)

These were followed by a series of poorly attended "drop in" sessions for the general public.

We asked (on FOIA appeal) if they kept a record of the questions asked during these 2023 "drop-in" sessions, Company Secretary Roland George told us. "As the drop-in events were focussed on the Route Update only and not a feedback exercise, active written note taking of specific questions did not occur during the events and therefore no information is held." FOIA Appeal Response Letter to Cambridge Approaches 16.1.2024

The drop in sessions were the only events in 2023 open to the general public to provide feedback and ask questions in the light of the May route update announcement.

## Quotes

William Harrold said: “In this case there seems to be little connection between their stated intentions and what they actually did. The drop-in sessions were a “tick-box” exercise with no real interest in public views on the project. How can we trust EWRCo. on anything when they don’t do what they say they will do?”

## Press Contacts

### *For further information*

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