Council leader welcomes King’s Dyke event in Whittlesey

The Leader of Fenland District Council has welcomed a decision by Cambridgeshire County Council Leader Steve Count to hold a public exhibition in Whittlesey to update local residents on the future of the King’s Dyke crossing project.

Cllr Boden and fellow County Councillor for Whittlesey, David Connor, had called on Cllr Count to personally engage with residents to explain exactly what is happening with the long-overdue bypass scheme.

In an open letter to Cllr Count, Cllr Boden said residents have been promised a road bridge over the railway line at King’s Dyke for decades to end the ever-increasing delays – but many have been let down so many times they don’t believe it will ever be built.

Now Cllr Count has announced that he has arranged an exhibition outlining the issues and options for King’s Dyke, where there will be ample opportunity to talk to him personally and officers leading the project.

The event will take place in Whittlesey on August 12 – three days ahead of a special meeting of the County Council’s Economy and Environment Committee to consider recommendations on a way forward for the project.

Comments from the event will be fed back to the Economy and Environment Committee on the August 15, a meeting which Cllr Count has also asked the chairman investigate holding in Whittlesey, rather than Cambridge, as also requested by Cllr Boden and Cllr Connor.

Welcoming news of the exhibition, Cllr Boden, who is also a Town and District Councillor for Whittlesey, said: “I’d like to thank Cllr Count for agreeing to the request to come to Whittlesey and engage with local residents about what’s happening with the bridge.

“Local people want confirmation that the much-needed and long-overdue bridge at King’s Dyke will indeed be built, and they want a definite timeline for that to happen. Hopefully this event will provide them with the official, factual information they deserve, and end the ill-informed speculation currently swirling around social media.”

Cllr Boden’s open letter to Cllr Count had stated: “Cambridgeshire County Council has been tasked to build the King’s Dyke crossing and it’s therefore essential that you, Steve, as County Council Leader let all of the residents of Whittlesey and the wider area know exactly what is going to happen.

“Cllr Connor and I don’t want you to wait until after the holiday period finishes. We, and the residents of Whittlesey, deserve definitive answers as quickly as possible, and the people of Whittlesey need you as Leader of the County Council to come to Whittlesey in person and look local residents straight in the eyes when you give us those answers.”
March resident, Cllr Count, himself a regular user of the affected route, said: “I think those most affected by any decisions that we take, are right to ask me and deserve to hear and understand for themselves the issues that we have faced so far and also fully understand the options that are going to be discussed by the committee.

“I am going to be there in person, so that I can talk directly to residents and they can measure for themselves how determined I am to get this built – to put it bluntly ‘by seeing the whites of my eyes’.”

The King’s Dyke exhibition will be held between 3pm and 8pm on August 12 at the Whittlesey Christian Church on Broad Street.

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For more information contact Fenland District Council press office on 01354 622226