

## **Examination of the Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme -Deadline 15:**

**Interested Party no. 10030913**

### **Comments on the Highways England report on Huntingdon Station Car Parking (TR010018 HE).**

We consider that the report over estimates the adequacy of parking for Huntingdon station once work on the proposed scheme commences and at least 170 existing spaces are lost. This is likely to result in queues of traffic trying to access insufficient spaces and inappropriate parking in residential areas.

The report suggests that rail commuters will be able to use car parks in the town centre. These are required for workers, shoppers and other visitors to the town and are unlikely to prove attractive for rail users, being at least 10 minutes walk away from the station. In addition the 'Elevations' car park to the north of Brampton Road may well be redeveloped in the near future with the loss of 280 spaces. There has long been a sign on the site stating it is to be used for business purposes. We also note that Highways England's surveys were undertaken in September when some regular commuters would still have been on holiday and before some bicycle users return to their cars with the onset of cold weather and dark evenings.

Highways England have not taken account of likely future growth in demand for car parking at Huntingdon station resulting from current plans for major housing development both locally and further afield. The introduction of Thameslink trains in 2018 giving direct access to the City of London is also likely to boost demand. Usage of the station has been increasing steadily for the past decade. According to official figures 1.277 million passengers used Huntingdon station in 2002/03. This had risen to 1.593m in 2008/09 and 1.692m in 2013/14.

Finally we consider that long term plans for station parking should be drawn up before the proposals for access roads to the station and local roads in the west Huntingdon area are finalised.

RD & JA Bowers