

EAST WEST RAIL CONSULTATION - IMPORTANT

Dear Renhold residents,

As many of you will already be aware the East West Rail consultation went live at 2pm yesterday and will be running until 9th June 2021.

This consultation is VERY significant as it includes a proposed option with a new railway route through parts of Renhold parish.

The Parish Council understand this is going to naturally be a great worry for parishioners who will have many questions and concerns on this, so felt important to send a communication before the Bank Holiday.

There has for a number of months been a lot of work going on with several Renhold representatives engaged in many different activities to object to the intrusion of this route through the North Bedfordshire countryside. During this time a lot of valuable skills and detailed knowledge has been built up, which has been used to ensure that the Parish Council are prepared and ready to make sure Renhold can engage both, fully, and effectively, in this consultation. It is going to be vital that everyone takes part in this consultation and has their say.

There is a lot to take in, but it is so important that residents take some time to review the consultation over the next 10 weeks. The Parish Council will be helping with this as much as they can.

In summary, there were nine route alignments looked at for the new railway to be built between Clapham through to the next station. Four routes were discounted, and five are now being consulted on. The section that is relevant to Renhold is known in the consultation as Clapham Green to Eversden. There are links to some of the key documents below:

A map of the five shortlisted routes being consulted on <https://eastwestrail-production.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/public/Shortlisted-five-route-alignments-overview.pdf>

There is also an interactive map of the shortlisted routes to help get a better perspective of the proximity of the proposed routes: [EWR Co NSC Map Section D : Clapham Green to The Eversdens \(arcgis.com\)](http://arcgis.com)

East West Rail have confirmed that all Renhold parishioners are expected to receive a communication in the post regarding this consultation, which is expected in the next week or so.

The Parish Council are already working hard now on picking out the key items and will produce a leaflet promptly for residents which illustrates these clearly. The Parish Council will in addition be sending out regularly updates through this circulation list. If someone you know in the village is not on this list, then please do tell them to get in touch as this will be a key way to keep everyone updated in the coming weeks.

The Parish Council will be focusing on this consultation at the April Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 21st April at 7pm where all residents as usual are welcome to attend.

The Parish Council are also arranging a meeting with senior Borough Council representatives in April to make sure the local authority is fully aware of Renhold's concerns and hears them clearly.

The Parish Council has also been working with BFARe a collective group of parishes affected by this route north of Bedford, this work will continue alongside the focused Renhold Parish Council work. If you wish to find out more about BFARe then do visit the website [East West Rail: Select the Best Route for Bedford - BFARe](#) the group also has a presence on social media as well.

Many knowledgeable individuals are supporting the Parish Council as they start to unpick the enormously detailed technical documents. If you would like to help, then you are most welcome to be involved in any way you wish, please do come forward and let the Parish Council know.

As always if you have any questions, please do just ask and feel free to be in touch.

This is a hugely important time for Renhold, not just now but for future generations.

Best wishes
Renhold Parish Council
3rd April 2021