

# Cambridge

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# 'I want metro open by 2030' says mayor

## Underground stops and routes revealed

By Gemma Gardner  
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The multi-billion pound Cambridgeshire Autonomous Metro (CAM) will head underground at four locations to the north, south, east and west of the city, it has been revealed.

A consultation on the public transport scheme has shown tunnel entrances proposed near Cambridge North station, at Cambridge Biomedical Campus, Cambridge Airport and the university's West Cambridge site.

It is proposed that the system will feature two underground stops – called interchange hubs – in the city centre and at Cambridge railway station.

Four regional routes will connect the city overground to St Neots, Alconbury, Mildenhall and Haverhill.

The exact locations, which will look like the entrances/exits of railway and road tunnels, have yet to be revealed. It is expected that the metro will use rubber-tyred vehicles.

The consultation states that the scheme will be delivered "over the next decade".

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough mayor James Palmer, speaking after the consultation launch on Friday, told the *Cambridge Independent* that it was "absolutely feasible" that it could be in place by 2030.

"It's great to get it out there before the public and show them what we're doing," he said.

The consultation shows a site near Drummer Street as the preferred city centre underground stop, helping to connect it to the

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How CAM will look, the network map and reaction

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bus network. Nearby Parker's Piece and market square were also considered.

Parker's Piece was not chosen due to the impact a station would have on the environment and heritage, while the market square was considered too sensitive a location and not viable due to the complexity of construction.

Respondents to the consultation will also have two potential route options to consider.

But the consultation has drawn criticism from some over the lack of detail on how much land will be needed for tunnel entrances and the environmental impact, funding and deliverability.

Previously it has been stated that construction could start as early as 2021 with the core metro infrastructure expected to be built between 2023 and 2029.

The consultation forms part of the development of an outline business case, which is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

A full business case which will include detailed engineering plans, will follow this, the mayor promised.

"We will hopefully go to a full business case with the backing of the general public with

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## £250-a-shot gin? Make mine a double



Tristan Welch at Parker's Tavern, which is now serving the 'world's most exclusive gin' - Watenshi made by Cambridge Distillery. A bottle will set you back a cool £2,000 | page 20 Picture: Keith Heppell

## In brief

## Slimmer reaches UK semi-finals

A slimmer who lost 3st 12 lbs as a member of Slimming World and has kept the weight off has reached the semi-finals of a national competition to celebrate the achievement.

After losing weight, Karen Newell now runs her own group supporting members to make healthy lifestyle changes.



Karen Newell after losing the weight

Karen, who runs Slimming World groups in Histon and Cottenham, was one of 30 consultants from across the UK and Ireland to secure a place in the semi-finals, which celebrates consultants who have successfully adopted a new healthy lifestyle and kept weight off in the long term.

At her heaviest, Karen weighed 13st 12lbs.

## Firefighters tackle electric bike fire

Cambridge firefighters dealt with two accidental fires on Sunday (February 23).

Firstly, two crews were called to a kitchen fire on Southsea House, Kingston at 6.05am. Smoke alarms alerted residents who were able to evacuate.

Later, at 3.46pm, a crew dealt with an electric bike fire, their second in five years, on Ferry Lane, Chesterton.

A spokesman said: "We recommend making sure electric bikes are well maintained."

## Hospices benefit from house firm

Taylor Wimpey East Anglia has announced that it donated £41,130 to charities and organisations across East Anglia in 2019.

The firm raised more than £20,000 for the East Anglia's



Each Milton Gala Day  
Picture: Keith Heppell

Children's Hospices (Each) and also contributed to a range of other projects.

The housebuilder donated all of its earnings from its annual charity golf day in July 2019 to support Each and the work it does across the region.

# 'Fighting for a better life for daughter with rare condition'

By Gemma Gardner  
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When Lily was two years old, her parents Nina Knight and Phil Woods were delivered a brutal message.

Their daughter had one of the rarest diseases in the world and past a diagnosis, there was very little doctors could do.

Lily, now 7, had been diagnosed with acrodysostosis type 2, which is characterised by skeletal malformations, growth delays, short stature and distinctive facial features, as well as unusually small hands and feet with short, stubby fingers and toes.

"Our immediate response was one of intense grief. At the same time, we were single-mindedly searching for any information or anything useful we could be doing for our little girl," Nina, 48, said.

They were told that Lily had learning disabilities and would probably need a lot of support and, as an adult, would not be able to live independently. There is very little that doctors could do outside of treating each symptom with traditional therapies.

Both Nina and Phil, 48, were quick to turn to the internet and found that only 70 cases were known worldwide. There was little else available about options for the families and patients. "We felt abandoned, helpless and very much alone with Lily's future a bleak mystery," said Phil.

A geneticist told the parents in terms of research and clinical developments, not enough information was available.

Nina explained: "One doctor told us that nothing could be gained by reaching out to others affected by the disease. Defiantly, we started looking for anyone who either had acrodysostosis or was related to children with the disease."

They found the Acrodysostosis Support Facebook group and over



Nina Knight and Phil Woods with Lily, 7, and Harry, 10

the past seven years they have navigated the tough obstacle course that most patients of rare diseases and their families have to.

From shocked parents, Nina and Phil became advocates for research into the disease, building critical connections among medical experts, geneticists and families across the world.

The journey led Nina to reach out to Cambridge-based Findacure and the charity Acrodysostosis Support and Research was born. It calls for more research into the disease, advocating more patient information that would support such research and future clinical trials; and calls for patient representation through Acrodysostosis Support

and Research.

"We realised that we had to provide the centre, and the bridge, for all those who can, with dedication, focus and funding, achieve relief if not cure for our children," said Nina.

Findacure is building a rare disease community to drive research and develop treatments.

Dr Rick Thompson, Findacure CEO, said: "We are here to transform the world's understanding of rare diseases and the devastating impact they have on people's lives."

Findacure enables patients and parents like Lily's to acquire the knowledge, the skills and the confidence they need to become successful advocates for their rare disease. There is training to help gain

a better understanding of the complexity of the healthcare system, as well as help in developing systems, such as patient registries, and skills like public speaking and communication.

Nina said Findacure has helped her understand that there are no limits: "At the beginning of this journey, we were simply looking for any slight improvement to our daughter's quality of life. Actually, we are now thinking about a much brighter future."

The family shared their story for Rare Disease Day on Saturday (February 29). To know more about joining the Findacure visit [findacure.org.uk](http://findacure.org.uk). Support Nina at [acrodysostosis.com](http://acrodysostosis.com).

## A princess calls: life-saving air ambulance charity hosts HRH



Princess Anne with Dr Antonia Hazelrigg and paramedic Steve Chambers

Her royal highness, the Princess Royal, was in Cambridgeshire on Monday (February 24) to meet some of the country's life-saving medics.

Princess Anne was given a tour of the operations base of Magpas Air Ambulance at RAF Wyton, where she met frontline staff as well as those behind the scenes who ensure the charity's emergency helicopter and cars can provide A&E level medical care wherever it is needed.

A spokesperson for Magpas, which recently took delivery of a new helicopter, said: "We were delighted to have welcomed HRH the Princess Royal to the Magpas Air Ambulance operations base. "On this occasion, the purpose

of HRH's visit was to find out more about the vital service and enhanced training our charity provides."

Magpas mainly operates in Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire and Peterborough, but can cover all of the counties in and around the East of England.

As well as its life-saving work at accidents and emergencies, Magpas also trains senior doctors and paramedics in pre-hospital emergency medicine.

However, as a charity it relies on fundraising to continue to save lives.

For more information - or to make a donation, visit [magpas.org.uk](http://magpas.org.uk).