

From: Tim Phillips
Sent: 18 February 2010 08:55
To: 'letters@cambridge-news.co.uk'
Subject: Letter for publication

Sir,

In response to the item about the pregnant lady being knocked down by a bus in Magdalene Street (News, 18 February);

You ain't seen nuthin' yet. Once the guided bus system is up and running (don't hold your breath) and Northstowe is built (don't hold your breath), there will be 20 buses an hour passing through the city centre in addition to the conventional services.

In medieval towns and cities on the continent, many of them with street systems just as narrow as Cambridge's, they have developed an exciting way of guiding public transport so they cannot stray from their allotted path and pedestrians know exactly where the safe zones are. They are called trams.

Unfortunately, the bright sparks at the County didn't consider that the place where guidance makes a real difference is in the city, not on the fens. Equally unfortunately the method of guiding buses, involving high kerbs, cannot be used in towns with narrow streets.

Installation of an electric tram system would of course be expensive and, to a certain extent, intrusive; but a hell of a lot more people can be carried per vehicle in guided safety.

Given the alternative for carrying ever-increasing passenger numbers is dozens more buses, each with its own engine and at the mercy of straying drivers and pedestrians, what would be the preferred solution for most sane people?

Tim Phillips
Chairman, CAST.IRON