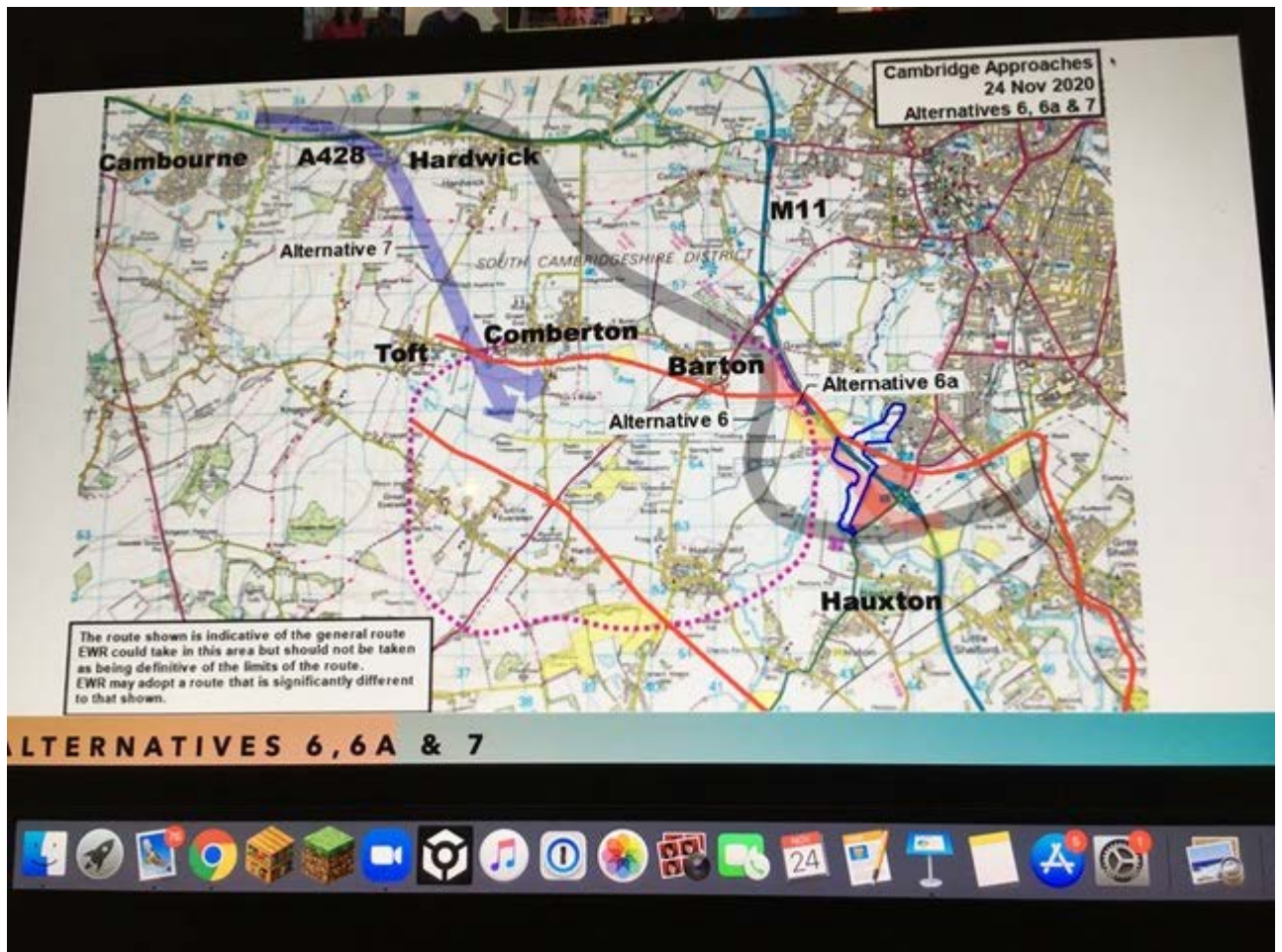


this option. However, it looks as if the railway would then skirt Bourn airfield development and come south in Route E. It could come very close to Comberton Secondary School (see photo) and then possibly follow Alternative Route 4 (see photo above).



CamBedRailRoad Presentation

Sebastian Kindersley made a compelling argument for backing a route stopping at Cambourne north, following the A428, to Northstowe and then in to Cambridge North station. He showed a map of existing settlements and approved settlements, plus GC local plan submissions for new settlements (see photo). A railway connecting Cambourne, Northstowe and Cambridge North would benefit huge numbers of population along this corridor, unlike Route E, which just carves up the countryside.

CBRR has collated 14 arguments why they think this is technically feasible including:

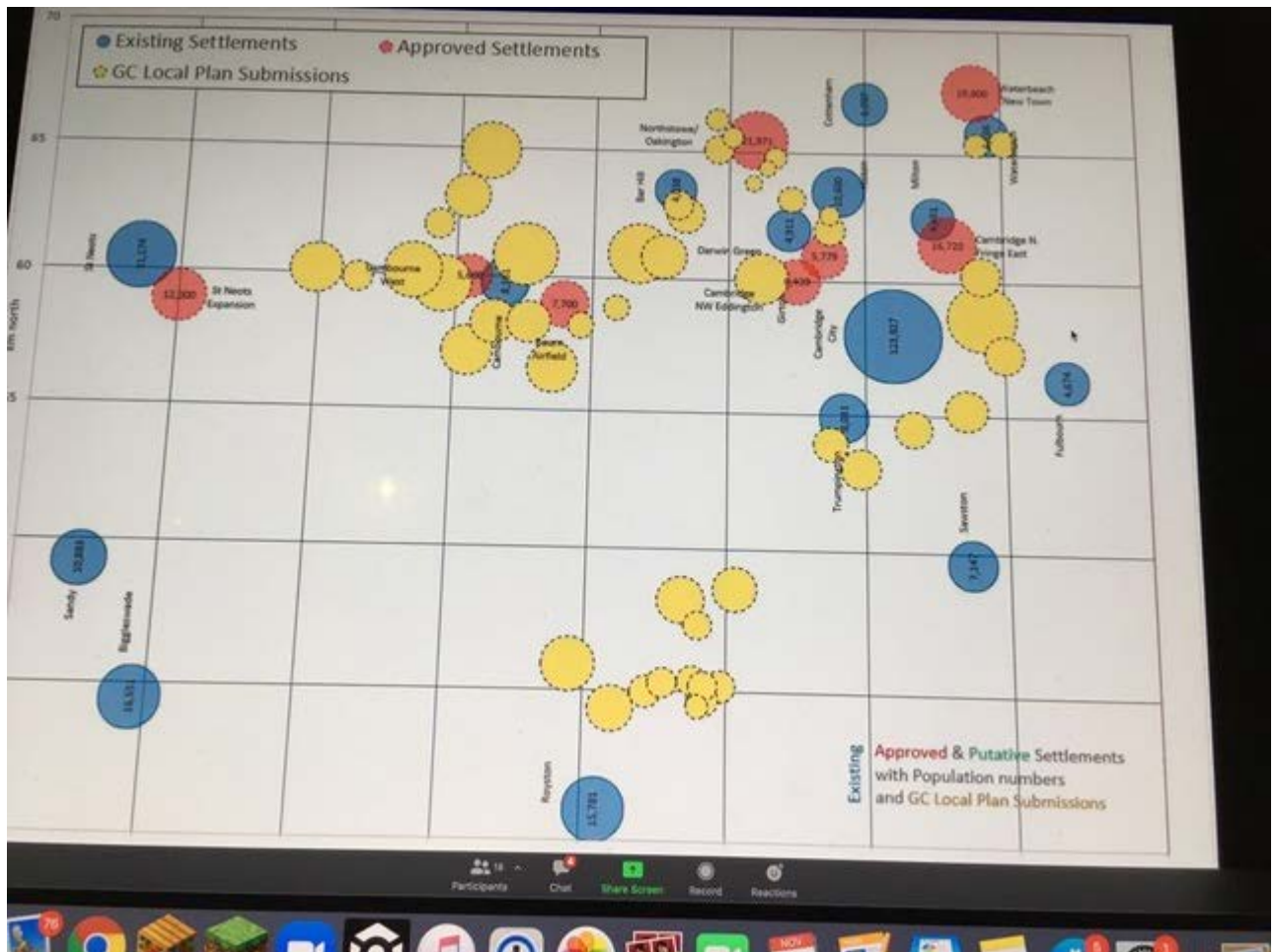
- Multi-modal transport corridor combining road and rail
- Minimises planning blight and protects best landscape and productive land

- Offers multiple transport options to residents
- Integrates with the planned Cambridge South station
- Opens up land for new developments

For further information go to CamBedRailRoad.org

He suggested a couple of strategies for Parishes affected by EWR's Option E

1. Actively promote CBRR's route
2. Press EWR to determine the 'least worst' route for Option E

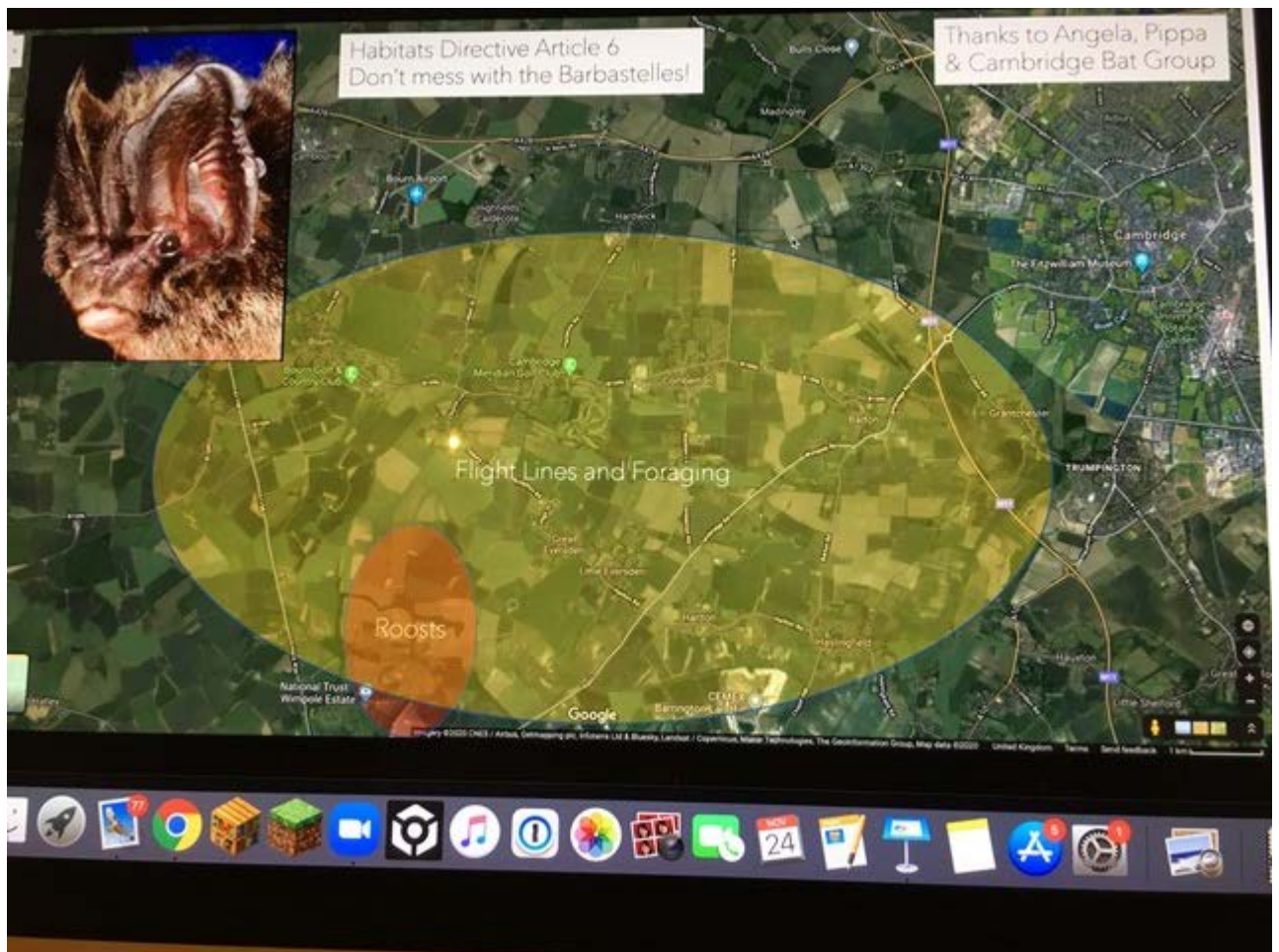


William Harrold (Cambridge Approaches) then talked about various things including bats, freight noise and outstanding issues regarding the choosing of Option E.

Bats

The Barbastelle bats of Wimpole and Eversden woods are protected by law (Habitats Directive Article 6). A 2002 study showed that their feeding, roosting and flight lines cover the whole area of Option E. It remains to be seen what EWR propose to do about this...

Requests to see environmental studies from EWR have been refused under the GDPR ruling. Apparently latest policy is that landowners can see their reports although there are some caveats!



Noise

EWR have stated there would be 4 passenger trains in one direction per hour (8 altogether). The possibility of freight at night is a great one. EWR have passed this task onto another company to look into. So when they are directly asked about it they are very fluffy with their answers. I think it's a given that freight will use this line and it will mainly be at night. It'll be noisy. William Harrold has found a YouTube clip of freight trains going over a bridge in the Fens - this could be Harlton (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P1JnLoe7TGo>)

The Unanswered Issues over Option E

There are many outstanding problems as to why Option E has been chosen -

Proof of passenger demand

Proof of freight demand

Incomplete business case

Not integrated with transport infrastructure and housing plan

Benefit to cost ratio (especially as looking at recent costs (going up) whilst benefits (going down))

Environmental and farming impacts

Disengaged with Local Plan

Plan of action

A petition is going to be drafted and sent out to all parishes. David Revell said it'll be for Parish Councils, Stake Holders and the general public to review and sign. They are going to try and push for a 'pause' in the focus on Option E and try and get EWR to look again at the northern approach. They think this will only happen if there is significant 1. commercial pressure and/or 2. political backing. They feel more openness and justification is necessary to get the backing from all those potentially affected. If this falls on deaf ears then legal pressure is a possible avenue.

If you missed the Cambridge Approaches webinar for Harlton, Eversdens, Haslingfield and Harston on 20th November there is a recording of it via Cambridge Approaches website. Or go directly there - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZbsYWaKLzQ>. See cambridgeapproaches.org for more details.

Thank you to all those who have written to Anthony Browne (anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk) and EWR (eastwestrail.co.uk, contact@eastwestrail.co.uk) already. If you haven't I urge you to do so. If you need a little help in compiling a letter Cambridge Approaches website (cambridgeapproaches.org) offers a whole host of reasons why we should be concerned.

Isabel Robinson