

HS2 Liaison Group

Venue: The Forum, SNC Offices

Draft notes of the meeting held on 7 April 2017 at 2pm

<p style="text-align: center;">Present:</p> <p>Andrew Bodman (AB) – SNAG Clive Hockley (CH) – Hinton-in-the-Hedges PM Harriet Raitt (HR) – Lower Thorpe Cllr Ian Morris (IM) – NCC (Chair) Mark Morrell (MM) – Brackley Town Council Cllr Mary-Anne Sergison-Brooke - SNC Maurice Cole (MC) – Thorpe Mandeville PC Nigel Galletly – Chipping Warden and Edgcote Paul Hayter - CPRE Philip Freer- Friends of Boddington Cllr Stephen Clark (SC) – SNC Stuart Rolt (SR) – Culworth PC Tim Moss (TM) – Thorpe Mandeville PC Tommy Gilchrist (TG) – Andrea Leadsom’s Office</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">In Attendance:</p> <p>Esme Cushing (EC) – NCC (notes) Chris Wragg (CW) - NCC Denis Winterbottom (DW) – SNC Gareth Epps – Interim Commissioner Lydia Smith – HS2 Ltd Caroline Hutson - FUSION</p>
<p>Apologies:</p> <p>Andrea Leadsom MP (AL) Brian Sinclair – Evenley Parish Council David Cross – Chipping Warden and Edgcote Jo Wilson (JW) – Aston Le Walls PC Peter Deeley (PD) – Boddington PC Cllr Rosie Herring (RH) – SNC Cllr Simon Marinker (SM) – SNC</p>	

1. Chairman’s Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly the representatives from CPRE and Friends of Boddington.

The notes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record.

2. Matter’s arising

Previous action/ issue	Update	Next steps
<p>NCC to raise overhead gantries as forward agenda item at Planning Forum.</p> <p>NCC/SNC/MPs to write to Independent Design Panel raising concerns regarding gantry design</p>	<p>HS2 Ltd have confirmed that overhead gantries will be a future agenda item, however this will not be for around a year. This is because gantries are considered as part of the rail systems which will be one of the final things to be considered. The common design elements are being considered first.</p> <p>AL has written to Sadie Morgan regarding the independent design panel on behalf of the Liaison Group, but is yet to receive a reply. A further letter will go out again soon.</p>	<p>Action: TG to forward letter to EC so that NCC can also write to the independent design panel to request an update on gantry design and further advice on when the liaison group can have input into design.</p>

NCC to investigate whether someone from HS2 Ltd would be available to come and talk about the approach to Common Design	Awaiting a response from HS2 Ltd	
NCC to ask HS2 Ltd what penalties apply if contractors fail to adhere	<p>There will be an escalation procedure if the contractors don't adhere to the construction routes etc.</p> <p>Any reported incident is serious as the Act is enshrined in law. GPS tracking of vehicles will help to demonstrate if construction lorries do not use the approved construction route.</p> <p>The exact non-compliance penalties etc are subject to commercial confidentiality.</p> <p>Traffic management plan that complies with the ES will have to be produced by the contractors.</p> <p>Any non-compliance should be reported via the HS2 Helpdesk.</p> <p>MPs will have an escalation line to helpdesk for immediate issues.</p>	
NCC to investigate with IT option of setting up a new email address and mailbox	HS2 Ltd are proposing to have a standalone website which should help with dissemination of information.	Need for an email address to be monitored and decision made at a later date.

3. Interim Construction Commissioner

Gareth Epps gave a presentation on his role as Interim Construction Commissioner.

The main points were:

- Gareth has previous experience in the same role for Crossrail for 10 years
- The Construction Commissioner is the point of last resort if the complainant has been unable to gain a satisfactory response from HS2 Ltd/ contractors
- Will adjudicate on the small claims scheme (under £10,000)
- A permanent appointment will shortly be forthcoming appointed by an independent body which LA's along the route will have three representatives on. The Commissioner will report to this body going forward on a regular basis.
- Gareth has met Julie King who is the Community Relations Director and made recommendations.
- HS2 Ltd are currently in the process of revising their complaints procedure and further details will be circulated once it has been approved (note: the Planning Forum will also comment on it)
- Complaints should initially go through the HS2 Ltd helpdesk. Any complaints that come to Gareth will be dealt with within 20 working days with the process being to resolve issue with contractors and then escalation to HS2 Ltd. Gareth's view is that finding solutions for the complainant is key to mitigate the impact on their life.
- Number of complaints that are dealt with by Gareth should be relatively low (1-2%) as the majority should be dealt with by the contractor
- Gareth is happy to hear any general feedback and will try and attend future Liaison Group meetings to also get feedback on how things are going.

The group thanked Gareth for his presentation and it was received positively.

Action – Gareth's presentation to be circulated with draft notes [circulated 24/04/2017]

4. HS2 Environmental Team look ahead to next 6 months habitat

Caroline Hutson from the early works contractor FUSION (a joint venture of three companies: Morgan Sindall, BAM Nuttall and Ferrovial Agroman <http://www.fusion-jv.com/>) has the contract for the central area.

The early works are small scale works, such as habitat creation and relocation as well as minor highway works and in other area design of larger scale highways works such as Stoke Manderville bypass. The early works also involves some air/noise monitoring to fill in missing information and update figures that were used on the ES that now are out of date and some ecological surveys too.

In Northamptonshire it is pretty small scale currently for example rehoming great crested newts in small ponds, which only involves very low levels of traffic (two vans a day for example). There will also be some early archaeological works to complete as much as possible before the main works contractors come on board and will be working with NCC archaeologist.

FUSION is setting up its own community engagement team who will be engaging with each area to deal with affected parties as opportunities arise.

There will be activities associated with hydrology and soils, utilities design, planning highway works and planning any future demolition (no further details than this were given).

Currently most of the work is on private land so there is limited impact, but as works start to affect local communities these will be shared with the parish councils.

The group thanked Caroline for the presentation and in response to some further questions the following was discussed:

- Environmental monitoring – noise and dust will be monitored. The baseline is in the ES but where further monitoring is required then it will be undertaken. At this stage there are no plans to publish the monitoring information.
- FUSION have not been asked to look at highway alterations for A43, but have been asked to look at some smaller scale highway improvements
- Halse Copse is ancient woodland, it is important that the soil that is taken up is not removed but re-used to reunite the two sides of the woodland.

Action: FUSION to confirm whether environmental data will be published and take back question to the desing team on how the soil at Halse Copse will be dealt with.

- If access is via a private farm access, neighbouring properties will not be notified of works, however if driving past houses or driving through a village to get to an access road and slowing down to turn then those affected will be notified within good time (10 days).
- It is understood by NCC that FUSION will also be designing Chipping Warden Bypass but this work package has not been agreed with FUSION. HS2 have confirmed design work will be carried out over next few months, but they are still to make a decision about whether the construction will be enabling works or main works.

5. Community and Business Fund

Lydia gave a brief overview of the two schemes. They are both being run by Groundwork on HS2 Ltd.'s behalf. Groundwork are responsible for managing the money, managing the applications and giving advice to applicants.

£40m over the construction period is available for groups and organisations that may want to bid. Applications must bring benefit to the whole community. For example, any applications for churches need to have a wider community impact.

Applications have already started to come through. Please note that each organisation can only apply once every 6 months so might want to consider the order that you submit. Groundwork are aiming to get responses to applications within 16-20 weeks.

The business and local environmental fund are aimed at Local Enterprise Partnerships, for local economy incentives/ initiatives to encourage people to come to the area. Of the £40m there is £15m for the central section and £10m that hasn't been assigned to a particular part of the route. There is a 10% match funding element.

Applications under £75k will be agreed by groundwork, those over £1m will go to SoS for approval. The panel meets regularly. In addition to these schemes, contractors will be required to have community investment programmes.

Action – Everyone to think about possible schemes to share/discuss at the next meeting

6. AOB

Tesco roundabout still is not on site.

Action – NCC to ask for latest update on Tesco roundabout from Highways England

MM raised a concern that are not enough trained labour to do all the construction work.

A general question about monitoring of impact of construction on local roads was asked, and possibility of using waste soil to build up verges in some villages.

Action – update from David Grindley on monitoring proposals and view on using soil to reconstruct verges

Date of next meetings:

- Friday 2nd June at 2pm, The Forum
- Friday 8th September at 2pm, The Forum
- Friday 10th November at 2pm, The Forum