
HS2 Liaison Group
Venue: The Forum, Towcester, SNC Offices

Draft notes of the meeting held on 8th December 2017 at 1.30pm

Present:	
Andrew Bodman – SNAG Brian Sinclair – Evenley PC Clive Hockley – Hinton-in-the-Hedges PM Cllr Fiona Baker – NCC and SNC Harriet Raitt – Lower Thorpe Cllr Ian Morris – NCC (Chair) Mark Morrell – Brackley Town Council Cllr Mary-Anne Sergison-Brooke – SNC Maurice Cole – Thorpe Mandeville PC Nigel Galletly – Chipping Warden and Edgcote PC Sir Paul Hayter – CPRE	Peter Deeley – SNAG Philip Freer – Friends of Boddington Richard Hooper – Greatworth PC Cllr Rosie Herring (RH) – SNC Stuart Rolt – Culworth PC Spencer Burnham – Evenley PC Tim Moss – Thorpe Mandeville PC Tommy Gilchrist (TG) – Andrea Leadsom’s Office Andrea Leadsom MP (AL) Malcolm Stewart – Boddington PC Hilary Wickham – Wappenham PC Ingram Lloyd – Sulgrave PC Anna Faure – Sulgrave PC
Apologies:	In Attendance:
Simon Shinkins – Greatworth PC Jon Coatsworth – Helmdon PC Groundwork Ltd	Esme Cushing (EC) – NCC (notes) Chris Wragg (CW) - NCC Denis Winterbottom (DW) – SNC Andrew Bowe (AB) – SNC Jonathan Lord (JL) – HS2 Ltd

1. Chairman’s Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Due to adverse weather conditions Groundwork were unable to attend. An additional meeting will be organised for end January/ early February.

2. Matter’s arising

An update on previous actions is provided in the Action Log at the end of the notes.

3. Groundwork discussion

The group had a general discussion around the CEF and BLEF funding and schemes that they were going to bring to their attention. They were:

- Greatworth Parish Council – children who currently walk to Greatworth Hall Education Centre for lessons will be unable to do so during construction. AL has written to Groundwork and they have agreed to meet with the school. The challenge is that any hire of a bus needs to be a community asset.
- AL highlighted that a more holistic solution was needed. Some of the ideas that had initially been thought about such as the Brackley medical centre have already got funding.
- Brackley Town Council – a youth facility and/or skate park are two ideas that Brackley Town Council are looking into.
- Funding rules – these have been devised by HS2 and signed off by DfT. Groundwork are independent. There was a frustration within the group that the funding could not be used for purchasing buses or buying a building. The group felt it would be helpful if Groundwork could provide some examples of possible schemes that are permitted within the funding.

- Although Helmdon Parish Council were unable to attend they have aspirations for a new village hall

CW suggested that it may be helpful for parishes to include any aspirations for CEF schemes within their Neighbourhood Plans (if timings allow).

4. Community concerns

The group highlighted that structural damage was of concern to many residents due to the lack of foundations for many properties, and asked whether HS2 Ltd will be doing surveys as a benchmark before any construction commences. Friends of Boddington explained that they had discussed this issue and HS2 Ltd have agreed to accept dated photographs as a benchmark.

There is a requirement within the Act for HS2 Ltd to do road condition surveys on all construction routes. The traffic count surveys that NCC are doing is to monitor the level of traffic that may be re-routing from construction routes (such as B4525 might transfer to A422). NCC monitors road condition regularly and this will also form the basis of measuring any changes against, together with the traffic counts.

AL has written to the Department for Transport on Farthinghoe Bypass and is making some progress. The general view was that this and other infrastructure is already required with HS2 putting additional pressure on infrastructure.

AL summarised that the issues she is mainly dealing with is footpaths, Chipping Warden acoustic barriers and Need to Sell issues that are still ongoing. It is apparent that HS2 Ltd have struggled because of high turnover of staff which results in no corporate memory which was frustrating. AL thanked everyone for being so patient and urged everyone to write on any issues that were of concern as it helped to get the message through centrally.

5. Woodland Fund, Community Engagement Strategy and Road Safety Fund discussion

The **Woodland Fund** is due to open for applications in January 2018 and will close in April 2020. The first £1 million (of £5 million identified) is being administered through the Forest Commission. It is grant payments for restoring plantations on ancient woodland sites/ and or creating new woodland. There is a total payment cap for native woodland creation and PAWs restoration (plantations on ancient woodland sites). The fund is open to all eligible woodland owners and land managers within a 25 mile buffer around the Phase One Act Limits, although anything that occurs just outside this zone may be considered. The fund is over and above that identified in the Environmental Statement.

Jonathan Lord from HS2 Ltd gave an overview of the **Community Engagement Strategy**. The strategy was published at the end of September. HS2 Ltd recognises that Community Engagement has not been perfect. Julie King has been brought in as the new community director and her first objective was to produce the community engagement strategy (which includes HS2 contractors). The strategy outlines 10 commitments and is all about being a good neighbour. The next stage is to bring the principles down to the local level and understand what is happening and how can people interact. Local Engagement Delivery Plans are being drafted and should be available by early 2018. They will look ahead to the next 6 months and outline what is coming up. HS2 Ltd and its contractors will be measured against the 10 commitments. The helpdesk is available 24 hours, 365 days a year. Advisors have a broad range of knowledge, but anything that is more detailed will be referred to the contractor/ land and property team etc. The group felt that the number should be widely displayed, particularly on construction vehicles.

HS2 Ltd want to develop relationships and have positive engagement. Their contractors are working to KPIs and receive benefits for performance over and above. The number of complaints will be monitored on a site by site basis.

Action – NCC/SNC to feedback complaints information received at Planning Forum

HS2 Ltd circulated a one-page update on schemes in the Northamptonshire area. Nisha will be starting soon who is Lydia's replacement. HS2 Ltd took on board comments that they needed to share positive news rather than focusing on reacting to issues etc. Consistency of staff has previously been an issue, however contractors will now provide a level of consistency.

HS2 Ltd gave a short update on the new HS2 engagement platform - Commonplace. This will be launched in March/April next year and will be an interactive platform that will allow people to input their postcode to receive information on what is going on, events, publications etc.

Actions – Any comments on the website design should be sent to TG who is meeting with HS2 Ltd shortly

Action – HS2 Ltd to give a short walk through of the website at a future meeting

The group all agreed that the strategy sounded positive, but that it would be how it is delivered on the ground that is important. IM extended his thanks to AL and her team for all the hard work that they had put in over the years.

There was a short discussion on land take. HS2 Ltd confirmed that through the design, land is identified for a particular purpose and that land that HS2 Ltd no longer requires will first be offered to the landowner (according to crichel down rules), however it may be that they do not want it.

Although the policy is yet to be developed, highlighting any desires of local communities wanting to do something would be useful at this stage. Friends of Boddington highlighted that timing was very important.

There was a short discussion on the **Air Quality Strategy**. TG highlighted the cumulative impact of other developments that potentially will happen at the same time as HS2, such as the Rail Freight interchanges that have not been accounted for.

Action – Any points on the air quality strategy to be sent to EC for collation

RH highlighted that local residents would expect contractors to provide vouchers for window cleaning/ car cleaning etc. HS2 Ltd pointed out that the contractor are required to mitigate the impact at source and that they are required to be a good neighbour.

Assurances and undertakings

As part of the petition process Culworth PC received an assurance for a sound barrier. Culworth PC asked how this will be fed into the design process. HS2 Ltd explained that the main works contractors were currently progressing detailed design and as part of this they would be undertaking a review to establish the required height of the sound barrier etc. This will not be subject to further consultation, but Information Paper D1 outlines the expectation that engagement will take place.

SNC explained that several months ago HS2 Ltd presented options for common design elements, such as noise barriers to the planning forum. Discussion at the planning forum has centred around how sympathetic the design is to the local vernacular – the view is that HS2 appear to be building in the flexibility to have different ‘facings’ to the common design elements. There is an expectation that an update on this will be provided at the next planning forum.

Action – SNC to provide an update on common design for noise barriers etc.

The **Road Safety Fund** was announced on 24th November. £1.650m has been allocated to Northamptonshire, based on the level of HGV movements during the ‘busy’ period highlighted in the Environmental Statement. The funding will be available until 2026, but NCC’s view is that it would be most advantageous to deliver these schemes before construction starts, or as early as possible in the construction period.

NCC will have to agree a timing schedule for releasing the funds with HS2 Ltd, who will administer the fund on the DfT’s behalf. NCC have to provide assurance that the proposed schemes contribute to the overall aims of the fund to leave a legacy improved road traffic risk identification and safety improvement along the route through schemes. Examples of schemes are; traffic calming measures, safer pedestrian crossings or safer junctions for cyclists, pedestrians and drivers. The funding will be ring-fenced for improvements close to the HS2 route. It was suggested in the meeting that £100k was the minimum scheme size, this is not correct, however it may still make sense to package smaller scale works together.

The group proposed the following potential schemes; VAS, road safety education in local primary schools, pedestrian crossings. HS2 Ltd confirmed that road safety education in schools is already planned to be delivered by the contractors.

Action – Any potential road safety schemes to be emailed to EC

Action – NCC to provide further details as they become available on funding criteria

The distribution of the HS2 Road Safety Fund along the Phase One route was calculated on the basis of the estimated volumes of HS2 construction vehicles in each local authority area.

The assessment of the estimated number of construction vehicles in each area was carried out by HS2 Ltd, at the request of the Department for Transport. This was then converted into the relative financial allocations in collaboration between HS2 Ltd and Department for Transport officials.

The Road Safety Allocations are as follows:

Local authority	Allocation
London Borough of Camden	£2,425,000
London Borough of Westminster	£1,560,000
London Borough of Ealing	£1,010,000
London Borough of Hillingdon	£645,000
Hertfordshire County Council	£1,165,000
Buckinghamshire County Council	£3,950,000
Slough Borough Council	£340,000
Oxfordshire County Council	£1,140,000
Northamptonshire County Council	£1,650,000

Warwickshire County Council	£8,045,000
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	£2,435,000
Birmingham City Council	£2,660,000
Staffordshire County Council	£2,975,000
Total	£30,000,000

6. AOB

TG asked for confirmation that a property bond is not being consulted on as part of the Phase 2 consultation.

Action: HS2 Ltd to confirm whether a property bond is being consulted on as part of Phase 2

7. Date for next meeting and forward agenda items

The proposed meeting dates are outlined below with the provisional agenda items. If anyone has got any specific agenda items that they would like to discuss then please email EC.

Date of meeting	Location	Agenda items (TBC)
9 February @ 1.30pm	The Forum, Towcester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groundwork – CEF and BLEF
9 March 2018 @ 2pm	The Forum, Towcester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Julie King (Communication Engagement Director) Main Works Contractor introduction (confirmed) FUSION to give update on design of Chipping Warden Relief Road/ A361/Welsh Road/ B4525/Dump Road (TBC nearer the time)
1 June 2018 @ 2pm (TBC)	The Forum, Towcester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule 17 and Schedule 4 presentation (NCC and SNC)
September 2018	The Forum, Towcester	TBC
December 2018	The Forum, Towcester	TBC

Actions Log

Actions from previous meeting (22/09/2017)	Update (14/12/2017)
<i>HS2 Ltd to chase two outstanding actions on information from FUSION and contractor non-compliance penalties.</i>	HS2 Ltd still to give update.
<i>NCC to keep group updated regarding progress on Chipping Warden relief road design</i>	<p>FUSION are now appointed for the scheme design phase as are their sub-contractor (Dawnus). NCC have had an initial meeting with FUSION about the design for Chipping Warden Relief Road.</p> <p>FUSION are in the process of doing preliminary design which will be completed by April 2018. They will be carrying out ecological surveys and other surveys (topographical/cores) in early 2018. The Design and Build contract will follow, with construction starting on the Relief Road in July 2018. Main Works construction is scheduled to start in March 2019.</p> <p>The target date for submission of Schedule 17 is June 2018 for details of the creation of earthworks/ structures, permanent lighting associated with diversion of the A361 Chipping Warden Relief Road. FUSION are provisionally coming to give an update at our March meeting.</p> <p>FUSION are also designing the B4525/Dump Road junction and A361/ Welsh Road. Again, the timescales are the same for this design.</p>
<i>NCC to invite Groundwork to come and do a presentation/ workshop session at the meeting in December</i>	Presentation and Q/A session at meeting on 09/02/2018.
<i>Parishes to send through any initial suggestions for community investment to Lydia</i>	Lydia has now left HS2 Ltd. HS2 Ltd have captured these initial suggestions and will pass on to the contractor.
<i>AL/IM to write on behalf of the group to formally invite Sir David Higgins to attend a future meeting</i>	Letter was sent on 30 th October. Sir David Higgins is unable to attend the 9 th March meeting but TG is going to suggest some other dates instead. Julie King HS2 Community Engagement Director will attend meeting on 9 th March instead.
<i>NCC to circulate traffic monitoring plan for comments</i>	Still to be circulated.
<i>SNC environmental officer to clarify their approach to monitoring</i>	<p>For both Noise and Air Quality HS2 has a responsibility to monitor this to ensure compliance with the EMR. SNC will be relying on the provisions within the EMR in the first instance for both Noise and Air Quality.</p> <p>Details of the monitoring required, how this will be carried out and made available are set out in the draft Code of construction Practice. The details of monitoring undertaken should also be provided in the regular updates on the LEMP (still to be published).</p> <p>In addition to this Paragraph 37 & Schedule 27 of the Act</p>

	<p>apply the provisions of the Control of Pollution Act 1974. So for noise this is S.60 (control of noise on construction sites) and S.61 (prior consent for work on construction sites). Where works are proposed the LA is being approached to establish whether prior consent is required under S.61. The statutory duty on the LA to investigate any complaint it receives concerning noise will remain. We will however first ensure this has been reported to HS2 Ltd through their complaints procedures.</p>
<p><i>NCC to invite the main works contractors to a future meeting [HS2 confirmed on 03/10/2017 that they will arrange for the Main Works Civil Contractor (MWCC) to attend a meeting in the new year.</i></p>	<p>9th March 2018 is the date for this meeting.</p>
<p><i>SNC/NCC to do a presentation at a future meeting on Schedule 17 and Schedule 4 at a future meeting in 2018</i></p>	<p>Provisionally scheduled for June meeting.</p>
<p><i>SNC to circulate the letters received from Mark Thurston to the Planning Forum for their information. AL/IM to write to Sadie Morgan on behalf of the group highlighting our concerns and asking how local sensitivity will be determined, copying in the Chair of the Planning Forum</i></p>	<p>AL wrote to Mark Thurston on 24th Oct again following a press release about French gantry design being the basis for the new system. HS2 Ltd response has been received [circulated with minutes].</p> <p>The Planning Forum is now having pre-meetings to set the agenda for the Planning Forum meetings. SNC/NCC will therefore suggest it as a future agenda item for the HS2 Planning Pre-Meeting for future discussion.</p>