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

**Draft notes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 1.30pm**

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<b>Present:</b>	
Andrew Bodman – SNAG Andrea Leadsom MP (AL) 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) Charles Lees – Aston le Walls Cllr Mary-Anne Sergison-Brooke – SNC Maurice Cole – Thorpe Mandeville PC Nigel Galletly – Chipping Warden and Edgcote PC Sir Paul Hayter – CPRE	Philip Freer – Friends of Boddington Richard Hooper – Greatworth PC Cllr Rosie Herring (RH) – SNC Stuart Rolt – Culworth PC Tim Moss – Thorpe Mandeville PC Tommy Gilchrist (TG) – Andrea Leadsom’s Office Tasa Ikie – Andrea Leadsom’s Office Malcolm Stewart – Boddington PC Norman Green – Culworth Anna Faure – Sulgrave PC John Coatsworth – Helmdon PC Ingram Lloyd – Sulgrave PC
<b>Apologies:</b> Chris Wragg (CW) - NCC Mark Morrell – Brackley Town Council Peter Deeley – SNAG	<b>In Attendance:</b> Esme Cushing (EC) – NCC (notes) Denis Winterbottom (DW) – SNC Andrew Bowe - SNC Nisha Mejer – HS2 Ltd Groundwork Ltd

### 1. Chairman’s Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced representatives from Groundwork Ltd.

### 2. Matter’s arising

No update was giving at last Planning Forum regarding complaints information. A further update will be given at a future meeting.

HS2 website – Tommy has had some discussions regarding the plans for the website with HS2 Ltd but has not seen anything as yet. Final design expected soon. There will be a commonplace website for the local area which will be similar to the one that is already operational for Camden:

<https://hs2ineuston.commonplace.is/>

***Action – HS2 Ltd to give an update on where website design is at next meeting and a walk through of the Commonplace website for South Northants at a future meeting when it has gone live***

Planning Forum was given a very early presentation on common design for bridges and a working party is being set up from a number of the local authorities along the route. A further update will be given at a future meeting.

### 3. Community and Environment Fund and Business Funds

Virginia and Phillipa from Groundwork gave a presentation (circulated with the notes).

- There is £40 million between the two schemes which will be available over 11 years (i.e. throughout construction period) Central area £15 million and £10 million unallocated for cross boundary projects.
- More detailed information is available on the website and you are welcome to contact the Groundwork team for advice.
- To apply, organisations have to be constituted, can be mixture of capital and revenue. Need freehold or leasehold for the land.
- Match funding –for projects up to £75,000 have to provide 25% match, however there is no requirement for parish councils. Strategic projects require 10% match funding – cannot use other HS2 funding as match-funding.
- The best applications will demonstrate:
  - Evidence of need – how community disrupted, evidence that local people have been involved
  - Evidence it is supported/ other stakeholders support it
  - Details of planning, contingency, risks, what activities will happen
  - How you will know/monitor whether it has been a success
  - Disruption – ES can be used to evidence the disruption in the area as a starting point, however things may have moved on so can include information received since then and how people are feeling
  - Sustainability and legacy – a project that has a lasting benefit. Projects that could be replicated or taken further, any evidence that can back things up
  - Value for money – priority will be given within a 1km route but those further away are welcome to submit a funding bid
- Projects do not have to solve a problem – it can be to give something back, new play area for example.
- CFA reports and HS2 interactive map may be useful.
- BLEF can be used for local economic centres and be capital or revenue. £10k to £75k, might test ideas. Larger £75 to £1m projects to have a longer term impact. Local public realm, access, local events, Christmas markets etc. Application needs to include details of how the economy is disrupted in the area and details of the legacy for the economy of the project.
- £245k has already been awarded, £746k is in pipeline.

The key points raised as a result of the presentation and discussion were as follows:

**Q1. Would a (electric) bus service to help with rural isolation/ connections with new healthcare facilities in Brackley be eligible?**

See separate response from Groundwork.

**Q2. Would funding for a community owned library be eligible?**

Yes, if the provision is above and beyond statutory provision.

**Q3. The programme is for 11 years. How has that money been programmed?**

Groundwork report monthly on area spend. There is not a target for yearly spend. Expected that once construction starts, applications will rise.

The projects that have been awarded already are available on the website, these give a good idea of the type of projects that have been awarded.

<https://www.groundwork.org.uk/Sites/hs2funds/pages/hs2-community-and-business-funds-project-map>

**Q4. There is only £15million for the central area how many communities will this fund, it seems a low amount.**

The fund is looking to fund high quality applications. Any communities within the area specified are eligible to apply.

**Q5. Can the same community apply for CEF and BLEF?**

Yes.

**Q6. How many times can a community apply for a grant?**

There is no limit – it may be that the Parish Council, School, pre-school etc. in the same community can all apply for different projects.

**Q7. If negotiations on mitigation are unsuccessful, can you apply to CEF? Should you start the application process in case the mitigation is unsuccessful?**

See attached response from Groundwork.

**Q8. If a community wants to pursue a new cycle route and looks like it can be applied for a CEF/BLEF/ Road safety how do you prioritise which fund to apply for?**

This would appear to fit best with a road safety application. This should be investigated first.

**Action – Cllr Rosie Herring to send through details of cycle route to be put forward for Road Safety Fund to NCC**

**Action – NCC to circulate possible Road Safety Fund projects identified and to provide further detail on what schemes would be eligible (street lighting was raised as a particular example by Boddington)**

**Q9. Can CEF pay for fees required to set up a partnership agreement in the same way that it can fund costs towards securing a lease?**

See separate response from Groundwork.

**Q10. What about religious building applications?**

A wider community benefit needs to be demonstrated in any application for projects associated with religious buildings.

AL asked the group whether they would be interested in becoming a partnership body. There was no strong view from the group that this was something that they wished to pursue at this time.

The group thanked Groundwork for the very informative presentation.

**4. 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.

<b>Date of meeting</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Agenda items (TBC)</b>
9 March 2018 @ 2pm	The Forum, Towcester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Julie King (Communication Engagement Director)</li> <li>• Main Works Contractor introduction</li> <li>• FUSION to give update on design of Chipping Warden Relief Road/ A361/Welsh Road/ B4525/Dump Road</li> </ul>
1 June 2018 @ 2pm (TBC)	The Forum, Towcester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HS2 Ltd commonplace website walk through</li> <li>• Schedule 17 and Schedule 4 presentation (NCC and SNC)</li> </ul>