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## HS2 Liaison Group

Venue: The Forum, SNC Offices

Draft notes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2017 at 2pm

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Present:	In Attendance:
<p>Andrew Bodman – SNAG Brian Sinclair – Evenley Parish Council Clive Hockley – Hinton-in-the-Hedges PM 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 Sir Paul Hayter – CPRE Peter Deeley – SNAG Philip Freer – Friends of Boddington Richard Hooper – Greatworth PC Cllr Rosie Herring (RH) – SNC Tommy Gilchrist – Andrea Leadsom’s Office Simon Shinkins – Greatworth PC Spencer Burnham – Evenley PC Cllr Fiona Baker – NCC and SNC</p>	<p>Esme Cushing (EC) – NCC (notes) Chris Wragg (CW) - NCC Denis Winterbottom (DW) – SNC Jonathan Lord – HS2 Ltd</p>
<p><b>Apologies:</b> Andrew Bowe – SNC Andrea Leadsom MP Jo Wilson– Aston Le Walls PC Linda Carter – Brackley TC Nigel Galletly – Chipping Warden and Edgcote Robert Johnson – Allens Orchard Action Group Cllr Simon Marinker– SNC Stuart Rolt– Culworth PC Tim Moss – Thorpe Mandeville PC Cllr Stephen Clark– SNC</p>	

### 1. Chairman’s Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. Matter’s arising

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

Information is still outstanding from FUSION on environmental data.

HS2 Ltd have provided references to information paper E1 and E13 which explain that the escalation process if it is felt that a contractor undertaking works is not meeting the requirements of the Environmental Minimum Requirements. They are: report any breach to the nominated undertaker (HS2 Ltd) in the first instance, if still unsatisfied, report to the Secretary of State and if still unsatisfied, report to Parliament. Further details are available in the following documents:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/593553/E01 -  
\\_Control of Environmental Impacts v1.7.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/593553/E01_-_Control_of_Environmental_Impacts_v1.7.pdf)

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/593566/E13 -  
\\_Management of Traffic during Construction v1.5.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/593566/E13_-_Management_of_Traffic_during_Construction_v1.5.pdf)

However, these documents do not outline what the non-compliance penalties are for the contractors themselves.

**Action - HS2 Ltd to chase two outstanding actions on information from FUSION and contractor non-compliance penalties.**

The start date for the signalisation of the Tesco roundabout was due to be August but this has been delayed. Further information will be circulated once received from Highways England.

NCC have had no further meetings since the last meeting regarding the Chipping Warden Relief Road design. We have been told that FUSION are sub-contracting the design and this will start in the coming weeks.

**Action: NCC to keep group updated regarding progress on Chipping Warden relief road design**

No comments were received on what parishes would like the HS2 website to contain/look like. The website is being developed by Julie King, Director of Community Engagement. If there are any further comments, please feed into Esme or Tommy who will pass on to HS2 Ltd.

### **3. Community and Environmental Fund (CEF) and Business and Local Economy Fund (BLEF)**

At the previous meeting three main priorities had been identified; Brackley medical centre, superfast broadband and bus subsidy. TG explained that the funding for Brackley medical centre has already been identified in full and will be open by 2018. Due to state aid rules, the CEF/BLEF cannot be used for superfast broadband as this is already benefitting from public money. Funding for buses is also not something that qualifies for funding.

Since the funds opened, 26 applications across CEF and BLEF have been submitted across the entire line of route, with a further 300 currently in progress. The first awards will be in the autumn and there will be regular updates on the website. The fund will look favourably on trying to ensure a good mix of schemes shared across the line of route.

Finding match funding will be challenging, but there is a possibility that some of the NCC councillor empowerment funds could be utilised, however the amount of councillor empowerment funding is subject to the budget setting process.

Radstone PC have identified a possible scheme to enhance the church as a community hub (difficult as it is a grade 1 historic building) though they feel they will need help from SNC to put a bid together. The Chair offered the input/ experience of the wider group.

Greatworth PC said that at the moment school children walk to Greatworth Hall Farm along a public footpath as part of the curriculum. During construction this will not be possible and there will be a considerable de-tour involved. It is understood that purchasing vehicles is not allowed under the rules of the funding, however Greatworth PC would like to investigate with Groundwork whether a vehicle lease is possible.

Brackley TC are concerned about the impact of increased HGV traffic on the A43 causing other traffic to re-route down the High Street during construction. They are interested in seeking funds to do a study on the cumulative impact of this and the impact of Brackley medical centre etc. HS2 Ltd highlighted that the starting point for the CEF and BLEF was the impacts identified in the ES not additional impacts from other schemes.

Evenley PC are still concerned regarding the impact of traffic through their village as a result of construction at Mixbury.

HS2 Ltd suggested that Groundwork would welcome doing a presentation to the group on the CEF and BLEF (as has been done in Warwickshire).

**Action – NCC to invite Groundwork to come and do a presentation/ workshop session at the meeting in December [Groundwork have confirmed on 29/09/2017 that they are able to attend]. In advance of the meeting parish representatives should discuss schemes that their area would like**

**to progress and write a list of any questions. Any questions should be submitted to NCC by 17<sup>th</sup> November (three weeks prior to the meeting with Groundwork).**

Contractors will also be required to do some community investment as part of their works (landscaping, training for young people etc). The mechanism for this is to feed back proposals to Luke/ Lydia. This mainly will be in relation to the main works contractors, but it is prudent to consider it now. The Contractor's will have an Engagement Team who will be expected to introduce themselves to the HS2 Liaison Group in the future.

**Action – Parishes to send through any initial suggestions for community investment to Lydia**

TG suggested that Sir David Higgins would be amenable to coming to a future meeting of the group.

**Action – AL/IM to write on behalf of the group to formally invite Sir David Higgins to attend a future meeting**

#### **4. Planned NCC traffic monitoring sites.**

NCC are proposing to do some traffic monitoring to assess the impact of construction traffic on other routes (this will be paid for by NCC). It is expected for example, that the increase in construction traffic on the B4525 will result in more people transferring to the A422. This impact is not forecast in the HS2 transport assessment.

The counters installed will be automatic loops cut into the road surface. Monitoring will start early next year so that there is a baseline to compare to once construction commences. NCC will provide regular updates on the data collected to the HS2 Liaison group on what the data is showing.

There was a short discussion about the proposal and the main points raised were:

- There should be collaboration with adjoining authorities;
- This is needed to prove that there is an issue (or not);
- There is a lack of clarity about what the impacts will be at this stage and there is little confidence in the transport assessment that HS2 Ltd have produced; and
- There should be the equivalent baseline for air quality

**Action: NCC to circulate traffic monitoring plan for comments**

**Action: SNC environmental officer to clarify their approach to monitoring**

HS2 Ltd explained that the main works contractors are now on board and have been provided with a lot of information which they are currently digesting. Although it is a 16 month review, some elements will be firmed up earlier than others and Lydia should be able to give an overview of the programme at future meetings.

The group felt that it was really important to be able to pass on their local knowledge to the contractors and that they want to work in partnership.

Some members of the group also expressed concern regarding how mitigation will compare to what was presented in the ES. HS2 Ltd explained that they have to build in accordance with the Act and within the Environmental Minimum Requirements and the impact cannot exceed that which is outlined in the ES. The scheme will be under intense scrutiny.

**Action – 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 (likely to be February 2018)]**

#### **5. Discussion on how wish to be treated by HS2 Ltd going forward**

The group had a short round-table discussion. In summary the group want HS2 Ltd to:

- Be honest;
- Be accountable;
- Attend meetings;

- Listen and react;
- Respond within a reasonable timeframe and follow up on actions;
- Keep us informed and provide information in a timely manner;
- Provide clear and concise documents;
- Involve us in contractor discussions;
- Treat those directly affected by HS2 with sensitivity and keep them up to date on progress particularly with agreed completion dates; and
- Be clear about who is the correct HS2 Ltd contact

In response to this, Hs2 Ltd gave an update on the status of the Engagement Strategy. Julie King is focusing on reviewing the community engagement strategy which is going through internal governance but should be published shortly [please note this has now been published <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-ltds-community-engagement-strategy>]. As part of the Engagement Strategy, Engagement Delivery Plans are being produced to set out how HS2 Ltd and its contractors will engage with communities. The document will be short and concise (no more than 9 pages) and will include details of how to contact HS2 Ltd, how they will engage with different parts of the community (newsletters, drop in surgeries etc) as well as an overview of the construction programme (NCC/SNC are due to have a meeting with Lydia regarding this document when she returns from leave).

SNC pointed out that it would be useful to not just understand how HS2 Ltd are planning on engaging with local communities about construction programmes/ disruption etc but also with pre-application engagement as this is the only opportunity to influence and shape design and it is not clear whether this engagement will be done by HS2 Ltd or SNC. HS2 Ltd explained that engagement will be delivered on the ground with the contractors, with HS2 Ltd managing them and assuring their work.

Cllr Rosie Herring gave one example of bat surveys being carried out in Radstone where prior notice would have been really helpful. This was noted by HS2 Ltd however because bats are protected species there are certain guidelines regarding what information can be disclosed.

The group felt it would be useful to have further information on how the planning process works for HS2.

**Action – SNC/NCC to do a presentation at a future meeting on Schedule 17 and Schedule 4 at a future meeting in 2018**

## **6. Independent Design Panel report**

Andrew Bodman gave a brief overview of the two letters from Mark Thurston. There was one positive in the letters, that gantry design will not be as per the Great Western Route. However there remains the following outstanding concerns:

- No commitment in the letters about what type of gantry will be used where (i.e. ANOB);
- Things have not moved on very much and the letter dated 20<sup>th</sup> does not seem to add materially to the previous letter;
- Work is ongoing with RIBA, but the design competition was three years ago, progress is very slow; and
- The Independent Design Panel report has some positive elements, but there is still a presumption that views from the window of the train are more important than the visual intrusion for local communities.

SNC confirmed that they do not have any influence over gantry design, but do over key structures such as bridges for example. SNC and NCC have raised gantries at the Planning Forum which other LAs also attend. Other LAs are supportive of our views. CPRE highlighted that they would not like to see a single design for the changing conditions along the route.

**Action – SNC to circulate the letters received 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**

The Chair extended thanks to Johnathon Lord from HS2 Ltd for attending the meeting in Lydia's place and being very helpful.

## **7. AOB**

Following concerns raised by Lucy Apperly with assistance from Ken Christy who are neighbours living in Sulgrave, there will be an engagement evening at Sulgrave Manor on 12<sup>th</sup> October at 4.30pm to 7.30pm. The event will primarily focus on traffic and transport, but there will be representatives from construction and land and property in attendance.

The Chair asked the group for views on changing the meeting date from a Friday to another day. The Chair explained that Friday had historically been chosen to enable Andrea Leadsom MP to attend. Whilst Andrea is still restricted to a Friday, Tommy is more flexible and could attend on other days. The majority of people welcomed Andrea's input and therefore were happy to continue on a Friday afternoon, but this would be reviewed on a regular basis.

**The next meeting will be held on Friday 8 December 2017 at 1.30pm (to allow more time for Groundwork's presentation/workshop session).**

DRAFT