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## HS2 Liaison Group

Venue: The Forum, SNC Offices

Draft notes of the meeting held on 30 June 2017 at 2pm

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Present:	In Attendance:
<p>Andrew Bodman (AB) – SNAG Andrea Leadsom MP (AL) Brian Sinclair – Evenley Parish Council 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 Peter Deeley (PD) – Boddington PC Richard Hooper – Greatworth PC Tommy Gilchrist (TG) – Andrea Leadsom’s Office</p>	<p>Esme Cushing (EC) – NCC (notes) Andrew Bowe (AB) – SNC David Grindley (DG) – NCC</p>
<p><b>Apologies:</b> Chris Wragg (CW) - NCC Denis Winterbottom (DW) – SNC Lydia Smith – HS2 Ltd David Cross – Chipping Warden and Edgcote Phil Brown – Chipping Warden and Edgcote Philip Freer- Friends of Boddington Cllr Rosie Herring (RH) – SNC Jo Wilson (JW) – Aston Le Walls PC Stuart Rolt (SR) – Culworth PC Cllr Stephen Clark (SC) – SNC Tim Moss (TM) – Thorpe Mandeville PC Cllr Simon Marinker (SM) – SNC Cllr Chris Groome (CG) – NCC</p>	

### 1. Chairman’s Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and extended the group’s congratulations to Andrea.

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

### 2. Matter’s arising

The group queried the comment in the notes of the previous meeting regarding the commercial nature of penalties for non-compliance. EC explained that this was probably a reference to the situation during the tendering process, however further clarification would be sought.

**Action – NCC to seek clarification regarding transparency of commercial penalties for non-compliance**

**Action – NCC to chase FUSION on query regarding environmental data and Halse Copse [chased 11/07/2017].**

EC gave a brief update on Chipping Warden Relief Road progress. NCC have had a meeting with HS2 Ltd who have confirmed that the Relief Road will be part of the enabling works and FUSION/ their contractors will be commissioned shortly to do the detailed design. The expectation is that the scheme will start on site in spring/summer 2018.

### **Action – NCC to keep Chipping Warden PC updated regarding progress on design**

There was a short discussion about the Tesco roundabout and the start date on site.

**Action – Layout plan for Tesco roundabout to be circulated [circulated with draft minutes 12/07/2017. Advance notice of works has also been received – w/c 14 August is the expected commencement date. Clive Hockley has raised some concerns regarding diversion routes and appropriate signing and we are awaiting a response].**

### **3. Highways sub-group update**

David Grindley from NCC gave an update on recent discussions at the highways subgroup.

HS2 Ltd are submitting their technical approvals to the group, such as demarcations of bridge design (outlining what NCC will be responsible for maintaining) and other detailed discussions which are all very technical. All these documents will eventually be available at the following website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-phase-one-planning-forum-highways-subgroup> (please note there is a long delay in documents being loaded onto the website which we have raised at Planning Forum on a number of occasions).

The main works contractors are being appointed in August 2017 and will be a design and build contract. They will have approximately 16 months of design before finalising the detailed design and starting construction.

NCC explained that any road used as a construction route (with over 24 LGVs (Large Goods Vehicles) a day) will be monitored by HS2 Ltd for potholes (and will be inspected by NCC as normal). HS2 Ltd are in the process of tendering a contract to undertake the monitoring. All LGVs will be tracked by GPS so it will be clear if they have deviated from the agreed construction routes.

An independent criteria is being agreed between HS2 Ltd and the Local Authorities against which the roads will be monitored. This will be challenging because it is the deterioration of the road surface between what would be expected through normal 'wear and tear' and the additional impact from the HS2 construction traffic. Therefore monitoring will also have to be done for equivalent roads to have a baseline to compare against.

Monitoring will be on an ongoing basis during the construction period. NCC's preference is for HS2 Ltd to fund us to fix any potholes so that a holistic and consistent approach can be taken rather than HS2 Ltd or their contractors doing adhoc repairs.

The group raised concerns regarding the increased pressure this will put on the council and how it will impact on the existing Streetdoctor reporting system. The group were concerned that it would not be able to cope with the increased reporting of defects. NCC agreed that the service was under pressure, however there is a mechanism for us claiming time back for dealing with HS2.

### **Action – NCC to ensure that any additional resource relating to highway maintenance is considered and identified**

NCC outlined that in principle, HS2 spoil that was surplus to requirements could be used to build up verges if the material was suitable and available at no cost to NCC. However, there would still be a cost in landscaping verges which would need to be considered on a site by site basis.

AL noted that HS2 Ltd do not appear to be responding to letters in a reasonable timeframe and that due to staff turnover there appears to be a loss in corporate memory with no handovers. A new approach is required which clearly sets out what we expect so that they can be measured against it. The group agreed that it would be useful at the next meeting to come up with a clear list of how local residents expect to be treated.

In the meantime, David Higgins is hosting a MP line of route briefing on 12 July. TG will raise concerns from this meeting with him.

#### 4. Community fund

The Community Fund is now open for applications. The fund is being administered by Groundwork who are independent of HS2 Ltd. For schemes up to £75k decisions will be made within an 8 week timeframe, schemes over £75k will have a 16 week turnaround.

The Chair went around the group asking for ideas. These can be summarised as:

- Brackley – Brackley Health Centre – GPs and 16 bed cottage hospital
- Schools – Spooner etc (probably too far from route)
- Superfast broadband
- Schemes to address rural loneliness – such as coffee mornings/ community hubs
- Chipping Warden – new school hall (standalone bid from school)
- Boddingtons – Gas / expansion of GP surgery (too small to cope with demand)/ small work units to encourage people to come and live in the area
- Evenley – traffic calming/ public transport provision (not currently commercial)/ extension of County Connect
- CPRE – support any scheme which makes the local area more prosperous
- Hinton-in-the-Hedges – highway improvements
- Thorpe Mandeville – play area (although ongoing maintenance cost is an issue), ideally would like the money to be put into improved noise barriers
- Culworth – new playing field
- Greatworth – play equipment for secondary school age
- SNC – will engage with businesses

All agreed that projects should concentrate on villages directly affected.

The group agreed that there were three schemes that were of benefit to a number of parishes which could be potential joint bids; Brackley Health Centre, superfast broadband and public transport provision

**Action – NCC/TG to look at CEF criteria to see which schemes from the list above would meet the criteria and whether joint bids are accepted (for Brackley Health Centre etc). If schemes meet the criteria and joint bids are accepted a letter is to be written to Parish Councils to agree priorities and a lead organisation to be agreed**

There is still no update on the Road Safety Fund (understood to have been delayed due to Purdah).

#### 5. Euston disruption

Euston will be closed over the August bank holiday for works relating to HS2. There has been no prior communication on this. TG to flag concerns over lack of communication with HS2 Ltd.

#### 6. HS2 website

EC reported that HS2 Ltd will be building a standalone website by the end of the year and they would welcome input on what information you would find helpful etc.

**Action – Parishes to send through any thoughts/ ideas by end of August to EC.**

#### 7. AOB

HS2 Ltd have launched a new Freephone number. All calls are free of charge from UK landlines and mobile phones. The new number is: 08081 434 434. A new Freephone mini-com number for callers with hearing and speech difficulties is also available: 08081 456 472.

#### 8. Date of next meetings:

- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm, The Forum
- Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm, The Forum