

**HS2 Liaison Group**  
**Venue: The Forum, Towcester, SNC Offices**  
**Draft notes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019 at 1.30pm**

<p><b>Representatives from the following organisations were present:</b></p> <p>Cllr Ian Morris – NCC (Chair)  SNAG  Andrea Leadsom MP  Tommy Gilchrist – Andrea Leadsom’s Office  Danielle Man – Andrea Leadsom’s Office  Chris Heaton Harris MP  Radstone PC  Evenley PC  Hinton-in-the-Hedges PM  Lower Thorpe  Brackley Town Council  Cllr Mary-Anne Sergison-Brooke</p>		<p>Sulgrave PC  Whitfield PC  Culworth PC  Helmdon PC  Cllr Fiona Baker  CPRE  Greatworth PC  Cllr Rosie Herring  Byfield PC  Friends of Boddington  Badby PC  Chipping Warden and Edgcote PC  Moreton Pinkney PC  Thorpe Mandeville PC</p>
<p><b>Apologies:</b></p> <p>Simon Matthews – Eiffrage Kier JV  Chris Wragg – NCC  Ingram Lloyd – Sulgrave PC  Jeff Peyton-Bruhl - Evenley  Stuart Rolt - Culworth PC  Charles Lees – Aston le Walls PC  Dick Stephen - Aston le Walls PC</p>	<p><b>In Attendance:</b></p> <p>Esmé Cushing (EC) – NCC (notes)  Denis Winterbottom (DW) – SNC  Chris James – Eiffrage Kier JV  Olaf Ernstsons – Highways England  Tim Noble – HS2 Ltd  Giles Brookes – Fusion  Nisha Mejer – HS2 Ltd  Maddelyn Sutton – HS2 Ltd  Gary Moreira – HS2 Ltd</p>	

**1. Chairman’s Opening Remarks**

IM welcomed everyone to the meeting and anyone new to the meeting introduced themselves. The notes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record, subject to a correction regarding Schedule 4 and Schedule 17s. There are still outstanding Schedule 4s and 17s for the permanent solution.

**2. Matters Arising**

Friends of Boddington (FoB) gave a brief update on the prolonged disturbance scheme. The scheme is planned to be launched soon, however this relates to the urban areas. There is still no further response on how it might be applied to the rural areas. FoB are still awaiting a response from their letter to HS2 Ltd about specific noise monitoring.

HS2 Ltd confirmed that this was an issue that had been escalated within the organisation and that concerns that rural communities were not well represented within the scheme and that they were committed to responding to the letter. Discussions are still ongoing.

Eiffrage Kier (EK) reiterated that expected noise, and the mitigation for noise during construction, will be set out to communities in line with the Code of Construction Practice.

**Action – SNC to investigate what noise monitoring was undertaken in-house by SNC environmental protection team and whether it could be used as baseline information**

**Action – Friends of Boddington to provide an update on prolonged disturbance at next meeting**

**Action – TG to circulate AL's submission to PACAC on prolonged disturbance in rural areas, and AL (and Liaison Group) to chase HS2 for update**

The group felt that there were still some outstanding issues relating to the responses to the questions submitted at the last meeting.

**Action – Any further questions on the answers submitted by HS2 Ltd/ Highways England/ NCC to be sent to EC**

**Action: NCC to raise quality of Highways England responses with DfT through their regional engagement contact**

Andrea Leadsom MP gave an update on her recent correspondence with Mark Thurston. HS2 Ltd and DfT say that HS2 is on time and on budget, but admit that changes are under consideration. Liz Truss Chief Secretary to the Treasury is undertaking a review of value for money later this year.

Following a meeting Andrea had with Chris Grayling there is the possibility that Culworth Road could remain open by upgrading the bridleway to a single-track road to retain vehicular access. The intention would be that the additional cost would be met by the Department for Transport.

IM explained that the option to upgrade the bridleway to a single track road had been investigated previously and it was found that HS2 Ltd had insufficient land within their control at this location to meet the design standards needed for a single track road, but NCC are supportive of keeping the road open and working to find a solution.

The meeting did not raise any objection to keeping Culworth Road open.

**Action – NCC to confirm their position in writing to AL on the proposal to upgrade the new Culworth Road bridleway**

AL has also secured support from the Road Haulage Association for the Farthinghoe Bypass. There is a meeting with EEH/SEMLEP soon to discuss the scheme further.

**Action – AL to give an update on Farthinghoe Bypass at next meeting**

### **3. Community Engagement, Enabling Works, Main Works Update**

#### ***Community Engagement***

HS2 Ltd gave an update on engagement since the last meeting (see slides). Meetings continue to be held with local communities and work is ongoing with schools.

#### ***Enabling Works***

Chipping Warden Relief Road is well underway and is due for completion by end of August (subject to weather conditions etc.) Fusion talked through current traffic management in place.

Welsh Road junction is also under construction and works are due to be completed by the end of April. There has been some issues here with drivers jumping lights due to four way traffic lights, so additional signage is being put in place to advise drivers. Reduced visibility at Welsh Road due to fencing has been raised as an issue. The fencing has been pulled back as far as possible.

Sulgrave Road – works have commenced and will last for around 10 weeks.  
Wardington improvements will commence in mid March for a period of 14 weeks.

The junction improvements at the M40 are likely to commence in July/August.

All welfare sites are maintained by Fusion and any issues should be raised with HS2 via Nisha or through the HS2 helpdesk.

The group felt that a simple programme of upcoming works (a flow chart) would be helpful. Look aheads are provided via the Traffic Liaison Group and HS2 Ltd have detailed internal programmes but there currently isn't anything that would be appropriate to circulate. There is a high level 3 month look ahead on the HS2 website.

**Action – HS2 Ltd to produce one-page flow chart of road closures and similar works of the upcoming work programme for schemes relevant to Northants.**

### **Main Works**

Chris James from EK talked through the slides. The key points were:

- There is a lot of work going on to provide additional habitat in advance of vegetation clearance
- The A43 will be an online improvement – once the work is finished the A43 will be at the same height it is currently, but consequently the railway will have to be lowered compared to the ES
- Radstone – meeting next week with Parish Council discussing SSSI etc.
- Ancient Woodland – where have to remove, then soils will be translocated
- Pump tests around Greatworth will be carried out soon to look at aquifers
- The Heave Test will stay in place as long as possible to be monitored before final construction is carried out at that location (two to three years) (earthworks will be finished this summer)

Brackley Town Council outlined that the meetings that they had were really productive and that they welcomed that EK were looking to use access points such as the A421 to reduce the impact around the A43. IM thanked Mark Morrell for his time being a critical friend to NCC over the years and wished him well in his retirement from his role as an anti-pothole campaigner.

Thorpe Mandeville made the observation that engagement on the design of the viaduct was planned to be before Christmas, then early January and has now slipped again to the summer and enquired where this leaves the delivery programme.

EK explained that engagement has slipped as further information to inform the design has been undertaken which meant it was more sensible to delay engagement.

HS2 Ltd expect to have further details regarding volumes of construction traffic within the next couple of months (i.e. the Local Traffic Management Plans).

### **4. Construction Traffic**

Gary Moreira gave a high level presentation which covered the Phase 1 Traffic Management Plan, the Local Traffic Management Plan, the Route Management Improvements and Safety Plans, Lorry Route submissions and highway condition surveys (please see slides).

There was some discussion on these topics. The main topics of concern were around:

- How construction traffic will keep to prescribed routes

- Are the routes suitable for the size of vehicles
- HGVs working on Chipping Warden Relief Road don't appear to be identifying themselves as vehicles working on behalf of HS2 Ltd
- FORS Gold standard?

HS2 Ltd explained that site accesses will be signed and wider signage may be used if necessary if a particular issue is identified. It is understood that EK will be tracking vehicles through a central system.

**Action – HS2 Ltd to investigate identification of Fusion construction vehicles.**

**Action – HS2 Ltd to confirm whether HGV tracking systems that be used by EK and it's contractors to monitor compliance with the approved Schedule 17 routes**

**Action – HS2 Ltd to confirm Police contact on TLG**

**Action – HS2 Ltd to confirm how HS2 Ltd is engaged with Strategic Rail Freight Interchanges to minimise the cumulative impact**

### ***A361 discussion***

Byfield Parish Council outlined their concerns regarding construction traffic using the A361 and the impact on residents being able to access services and impact of a higher number of HGVs using the A361 through Byfield. This was compounded by the fact that they did not realise that Byfield would be affected.

**Action – NCC to confirm dates of resurfacing through A361 [Resurfacing is due to start on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019, subject to any last minute changes to the programme]**

EK outlined that their current thinking was that they were not planning to use the A361 through Byfield except for if they needed it as a resilience route (in case there was an issue on the M40 or A361 south of Chipping Warden).

Fusion are planning to use the route in line with the ES figures (35 HGVs in each direction – i.e. 70 movements a day). NCC have not as yet received any further details/ paperwork on this but are expecting the documentation in the next couple of weeks.

Badby PC explained that they had similar concerns about the use of the A361 through Badby and the road safety impact.

**Action – HS2 Ltd/Fusion to confirm what HGV figures are forecast to be on the A361 north of Chipping Warden as part of the Chipping Warden Relief Road.**

## **5. Road Safety Fund**

NCC gave an update on progress since the last meeting (see slides). KierWSP are gradually working their way through the schemes submitted and will be arranging meetings with parish councils once they have had an initial look at what is feasible.

As there is still some uncertainty about what the highway impact will be, NCC have prioritised undertaking feasibility design on those schemes where there is greatest certainty.

## 6. AOB

**Action: HS2 to provide update on when is planting at Thorpe Mandeville happening and why not done so far?** *[Post meeting update: The proposed planting is due to be undertaken by EK to suit programme requirements along with the other multitude of planting sites. The focus at the moment has been on the creation of new habitats to enable species translocation. Crowders has been awarded the contract where they are growing 7 million trees for HS2 so already established trees can be planted.]*

**Action: EK to contact Thorpe Mandeville to give update on KDE.**

**Date of next meeting – 7<sup>th</sup> June at 2pm at The Forum, Moat Lane, Towcester**

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