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

**Draft notes of the meeting held on 7th September 2018 at 2pm**

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**Representatives from the following organisations**

**were present:**

SNAG  
Andrea Leadsom MP  
Tommy Gilchrist – Andrea Leadsom’s Office  
Evenley PC  
Cllr Fiona Baker  
Lower Thorpe  
Brackley Town Council  
Cllr Mary-Anne Sergison-Brooke  
Thorpe Mandeville PC

Chipping Warden and Edgcote PC  
Friends of Boddington  
Greatworth PC  
Cllr Rosie Herring  
Sulgrave PC  
Northants Police  
Whitfield Resident Group  
Helmdon Parish Council  
Cllr Ian Morris - NCC

**Apologies:**

Andrew Bowe - SNC  
Nisha Mejer – HS2 Ltd  
Hinton-in-the-Hedges PM  
Aston le Walls PC  
Culworth PC

**In Attendance:**

Chris Wragg (CW) - NCC  
Esme Cushing (EC) – NCC (notes)  
Denis Winterbottom (DW) – SNC  
Simon Matthews – Eiffage Kier JV  
Chris James – Effiage Kier JV  
Steve Beech – Fusion  
Andy Walker – HS2 Ltd

**1. Chairman’s Opening Remarks**

IM welcomed everyone to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves. The notes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record, however it was noted that for some people the previous notes were missing the construction programme.

**2. Matters arising**

Eiffage Kier outlined that the process of identifying primary construction routes and contingency routes was still ongoing and this was being developed in partnership with NCC. The group felt that this did not really address the issue of minimising impacts from diverted traffic.

Eiffage Kier have spoken to Highways England and there are no planned schemes for the A43. The group raised that it was not planned schemes that was the issue raised, but the junction improvements necessary to mitigate the impact of HS2 construction vehicles.

NCC explained that unfortunately Highways England were unable to attend this meeting due to annual leave, however a Strategic Transport Group for Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire has recently been set up, that Highways England will sit on, along with HS2 and its contractors and this was something that could be brought to this groups attention. Highways England has already been invited to attend the next HS2 Liaison Group meeting.

**Action – NCC to raise issues regarding the A43 with Highways England at next Strategic Transport Group and NCC to give an update at the next meeting on progress**

**Action – NCC to invite Highways England to next Liaison Group [Highways England have confirmed that a representative will attend]**

### **3. HS2 Community Policing in South Northamptonshire**

Michaela Simons, Neighbourhood Policing Sergeant introduced herself. Michaela has two teams based at Towcester and Brackley. The Brackley team will deal with day to day community issues relating to HS2. Policing at a strategic level will be dealt with by other colleagues and Eiffage Kier have already met with the appropriate contacts to start sharing information.

Experience at other construction compounds is that there is not expected to be a spike in crime, however the situation will be monitored and Michaela encouraged everyone to get in contact if they had any further questions at [micki.simons@northants.pnn.policy.uk](mailto:micki.simons@northants.pnn.policy.uk).

HS2 Ltd outlined that a private security company have been employed to monitor the length of the route for low-level crime (fly tipping, trespassers etc.) and can be contacted via the HS2 helpdesk. They have been operational for around five weeks.

The group raised concerns about a rise in crime around oil thefts in some of the villages recently. Michaela was aware of the incidents and explained that adjoining counties had also seen similar seasonal trends and it was not directly linked to construction of HS2 Ltd.

The group thanked Michaela for attending.

### **4. Update on scheme progress**

#### **Enabling Works**

Steve Beech from Fusion talked through the slides and gave an update on the Chipping Warden Relief Road and junction improvements at B4525/Sulgrave Road and A361/Welsh Road as well as Wardington. Clearing the site has started at Chipping Warden, with the works to be completed by late spring next year. Works will then start at Welsh Road, then Greatworth and Wardington in the New Year. Schedules 17 and 4 have been submitted for Chipping Warden, Welsh Road and B4525 design. Fusion have completed ecological mitigation sites and done some trial trenching and ground radar.

Chris James from Eiffage Kier gave an update on Early Works. Ground investigation works are now starting and a compound has been set up at Fir Tree Nurseries. Currently undertaking checks for utilities, carrying out trial pits and bore holes to understand ground conditions. Works will take place over the next two to three months. The second element of works is the Heave trial. Preparation works have been started, site access will be developed over next couple of weeks.

Work is still ongoing on the Local Traffic Management Plan and Eiffage Kier expect to issue to HS2 Ltd in October. The document will then be reviewed by HS2 Ltd and issued to NCC. In the later part of the year there will be further engagement with communities and a greater level of detail.

Community Engagement is ongoing across Area Central with dialogue continuing with Greatworth, Friends of Boddington, individual residents, Chipping Warden around the Relief Road, Radstone etc. Further events are planned with regular drop in at Chipping Warden. Eiffage Kier are also seeking guidance around how to engage communities around key designs such as the Edgcote and Thorpe Mandeville viaducts. In Buckinghamshire, display boards were used as part of community engagement events with explanations of options considered and a questionnaire for comments.

Discussions are also ongoing with businesses that may be affected and Chipping Warden Primary School too. Wherever possible and appropriate, meetings are being held with Fusion/Eiffage Kier and HS2 Ltd so that there is a joint approach.

Community Investment Fund – funding now been set aside (see presentation for email address to contact). Eiffage Kier encouraged anyone who did not feel engaged to get in contact with him as they are aware some people may have been missed.

Brackley Town Council expressed a wish for Eiffage Kier to come and speak to them particularly around the Buckingham Road roundabout, but also a wider conversation about the impact on Radstone, Hinton-in-the-Hedges etc.

**Action – Eiffage Kier to set up a meeting with Brackley Town Council to talk about their concerns in further detail**

There was then a short discussion regarding the A43 particularly regarding HGV movements and maintenance during construction. The issue of resilience was also raised with concerns that the temporary closure of the A422 due to a bridge failure has resulted in more traffic using the B4525 which the HS2 construction traffic will exacerbate further.

Eiffage Kier reiterated that the A422 is not an identified construction route, however took the point that the B4525 is an alternative, and that resilience and contingency is something that they are very conscious of. The A43 will be under the normal maintenance regime that is currently in place, as the Act only applies to construction routes that start off the strategic road network, however Eiffage Kier raise it again as a concern.

NCC confirmed that the temporary road closure is likely to be in place until December and that discussions were ongoing to get the necessary agreements from the Environment Agency to undertake the repairs, but that the process takes time.

Greatworth Parish Council raised the issue of the temporary closure of the A422 and the subsequent increase of traffic on B4525 and whether the traffic management plans and safety audit have taken into account the increase in traffic and what the contingency plans would be if the same happened during main works construction. Greatworth Parish Council also summarised their concerns about the right turn from Sulgrave Road onto B4525.

Eiffage Kier explained that the closure of Helmdon Road will be minimised as much as possible to reduce the pressure on the Sulgrave Road/B4525 junction. Greatworth Parishes' concerns have been discussed on a number of occasions and the designs have passed the Road Safety Audit. The Traffic Liaison Groups are part of the way to look at the knock-on effects and the wider impact of traffic monitoring and ensuring resilience. NCC assured Greatworth that the temporary closure of the A422 had already been raised with HS2 Ltd.

Cllr Rosie Herring welcomes the engagement with individual communities but asked that local District Councillors are also engaged in terms of understanding the cumulative impact on a number of villages and those that may not attend these meetings such as Middleton Cheney etc.

The Friends of Boddington raised an issue about prolonged disturbance compensation and the concern that it was very urban based with rural communities not seeming to have been considered in the prolonged disturbance scheme. Where noise levels are already so low, any increase can have a very significant impact on health and wellbeing.

**Action – EK/HS2 to speak to Friends of Boddingtons about prolonged disturbance during construction in further detail**

**5. Schedule 17 and Schedule 4**

SNC and NCC talked through the Schedule 17/Schedule 4 presentations.

The Schedule 17 key points were:

- There are a series of schedules in the Act which relates to the approval of design and construction planning concerns
- Schedule 17 are for permanent works, i.e. not for temporary that is intended to disappear, however construction camp do require a Schedule 17
- There is a requirement for a bringing into use Schedule 17 which is needed before the whole scheme opens
- A class approval system is being used – which is general approval for certain types of works – soil holding etc
- Can refuse works
- Consistency between all submissions – it has been agreed through the planning forum process what written statements should include etc. which has worked relatively well
- There are regimes outside of the Schedule 17 such as the Environmental Minimum Requirements (like the Code of Construction Practice) that means that noise, disturbance are deemed to have been dealt with
- The process only details three statutory consultees. SNC will notify affected parish councils and neighbours if close to works and other organisations – just to make sure that the submission is already in. Full details on website. Will not receive any specific comments, but will take into consideration as far as they can.
- Has to be determined within 8 weeks from date that receive submission. Critical to that process is pre-application process which has been fairly positive so far

Chipping Warden Parish Council raised that there has been lots of engagement on Chipping Warden Relief Road, but there has not been the access to drawings that would have been helpful to understanding the designs – why have these not been available before? How to the Parish Councils get involved?

SNC explained that the comments that the Parish Councils are making to HS2 Ltd and its contractors through the process should be being picked up in the design, and in some cases Parish Councils have had sight of drawings before the District or County has seen them. The process should be happening in parallel.

The key Schedule 4 points were:

- These are the technical highway approvals
- They can be for temporary or permanent works
- There are a number of documents that are submitted with them for information (road tracking for example, Road Safety Audit etc)
- NCC has 28 days to approve
- If NCC does not approve within the 28 days then they receive deemed consent

Queries were raised about the process for approvals under the new Unitary Authority. This has not been confirmed as yet, but will be one of the many things that the shadow authority will be looking at.

## **5. AOB**

Brackley Town Council asked whether the design for Wendover Dean Viaduct which talks about light and shade will be similar to the Lower Thorpe Viaduct. Eiffage Kier confirmed that the Lower Thorpe Viaduct was a composite scheme with the same construction form.

Evenley Parish Council raised that with the cuts to bus services this will add to traffic concerns. NCC explained that under the unitary system these, along with other considerations would have to be considered in the context of funding available.

**The next meeting will be held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 2pm, The Forum.**

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