

Annual Parish Meeting 16th April 2018

HS2 report

Prep work for the line is very active in this area with a recent road closure between Brackley and Westbury to check utilities so there are no nasty shocks when the work starts in earnest. Testing to 1.5 meter depth minimum and mindful of architectural issues in the area.

2026 seems a long way off for a completion date of this phase but it will mean a significant amount of work will be seen towards the end of this year and next year we will notice a lot more traffic movement in our area.

With this in mind our village and others in the area are making good representation at steering group meetings as well as keeping the pressure locally to ensure the haul routes are adhered to. These routes to be approved by end of this year.

With recent events in our village related to the Brackley night closures we have had a bit of a rehearsal for this.

With GPS tracking and heavy fines for offenders Hs2 is mindful of our predicament. Their community engagement managers hold regular drop-in sessions locally to answer any questions the public may have.

Environment issues amongst others

In fairness, HS2 has promised to plant 7 million new trees along the route, and a contract has already been awarded to grow the saplings.

Taken from the Hs2 website:

Preparatory works for HS2 also include a major conservation project, as we create a green corridor of connected wildlife habitats that will run alongside the railway. Other important activities at this stage include archaeology investigations, utilities diversions and road improvements.

Main construction work, such as the creation of new bridges, viaducts and tunnels will start in 2018/19 following a period of detailed design work. Throughout every stage of the construction process, HS2 Ltd is committed to being a good neighbour to local communities by treating local communities with respect and compassion, while building the railway in a considerate way.

Funding

A complicated business, taking a lot of councillor's time but we are slowly getting somewhere. The fund is available to support communities who are demonstrably disrupted by Hs2 construction.

Evenley feels that some traffic calming is necessary as there will be more traffic in the area connected with construction works. Forgetting HGV's, there will be a general increase to cope with.

The Hs2 website is worth a visit for route detail: <https://www.hs2.org.uk/> and to find out what is happening in the area.

Brian Sinclair