

Compensation

HS2 Compensation and Mitigation Forum (lead by Andrea Leadsom MP. Local MP's Chris Pincher and Dan Byles are part of this group). On 28th June the group had a meeting with Justine Greening. They raised the importance of the Property Bond and discussed the Exceptional Hardship Scheme (otherwise known as the Exceptionally Hard to get Scheme).

July 2012 Secretary of State for Transport (Justine Greening): Alongside January's decision I confirmed my intention to deliver a generous compensation package for those affected by the route which goes over and above the minimum required by law.

I am acutely aware of the impact the proposals for HS2 are having on property markets along the line of route from London to West Midlands. Developing the right property compensation package is complex as it needs to be fair to those living and working along the HS2 London to West Midlands route while recognising our broader responsibility to the taxpayer. In addition, from personally dealing with the casework from the operation of the existing Exceptional Hardship Scheme, I recognise the range and complexity of issues that the property and compensation package for HS2 will need to deal with. This all means that it is imperative that we put in place the right package.

I am keen to consult as soon as possible to provide people with certainty but, given the nature of the issue and its implications for Phase 2 and work to assess stations and route options, it is clear to me that the detailed work to fully assess options means that we will consult on the property and compensation package for HS2 after Parliament returns from its summer recess in September. However, this will enable the Government to put forward a comprehensive, practical and affordable package of property and compensation measures. I will be writing to those likely to be most directly affected by the project to explain this change.

We will wait with bated breath to see if the Secretary of State includes residents in this area as being "likely to be most directly affected"

Do let us know if you receive a letter.

Help Needed

AGAHST FEDERATION

Are looking for Volunteers to help with admin work - all work can be done from home

As little as one hour on a one off or ongoing basis

Contact a member of the Action Group For further information

The National campaign against HS2 Needs YOU!

Christopher Pincher

Is holding a surgery at Hints Village Hall
On
Saturday 4th August
11am - 1pm



August 2012

Judicial Reviews

Five cases against the Governments decision to press ahead with High Speed 2 rail project will be heard in the High Court of Justice commencing 3 December.

The court will give its decision after all 5 have been heard.

Grounds for the legal challenge include:

- Inadequate consultation
- Failure to consult with people north of Birmingham who therefore do not know if they will be impacted by the HS2 route
- Failure to consult on Optimised alternative offered by 51m
- Failure to consult on changes to the route announced on 10 January 2012. For many people this was the first time they were aware they would be affected.
- Impact on Euston not fully considered
- Inadequate environmental information
- Mishandling of consultation responses

HS2 Action Alliance are claimants in two of the JR's. Other claimants are 51m (an alliance of 15 local authorities), Heathrow Hub Limited and Aylesbury Vale Golf Club.

To keep the pressure up on this campaign we need, now more than ever, to fund raise.

To help Action Groups with fund raising the AGAHST Federation have organised a Campaign Prize Draw.

We need your help to sell these tickets.



AGAHST
(Action Groups against HS2)

2012 Campaign Prize Draw

Tickets £1

1st Prize £500

2nd Prize £250

3rd Prize £125

4th Prize £75

Draw 4th November 2012

Helping to raise funds to continue the fight against HS2

Community Forums

The 2nd Community Forum has been held. A rep from the Woodlands Trust was at this forum to argue the case for our ancient woodlands.

The minutes of the first forum can be seen on the village web site. The next forum will be held on the 4th September.

HS2 have agreed to have a site meeting with the Action Group. Staffordshire County Council Commissioner for Transport or newly appointed HS2 Project Manager will hopefully be attending this meeting.

Road/Footpath useage surveys

Road traffic surveys have been taking place.

Footpath surveys are planned to take place in September.

We fear that many footpaths will disappear.

Meeting with Prof.McNaughton

David Outen, (Hints) and a representative from Drayton Bassett Action Group were invited by our MP Christopher Pincher to go to a meeting in London.

At this meeting Mitigation suggestions for both communities were presented to professor McNaughton and other HS2 engineers.

Hints conservation status has at last been acknowledged and the DfT maps will be amended accordingly.

They gave no indication that they will put in any tunnelling. The request has been logged and will be considered. We will have to wait and see.

We would like to thank David for his work on the excellent presentation he prepared for the case for better mitigation for Hints. Thank you also for representing us at this meeting.

HS2 rail Consultation a sham as responses are mislaid

On the 22nd July HS2AA, along with 412 others, have learnt from HS2 Ltd that their detailed response to the 2011 consultation got lost due to 'processing errors'.

Apparently lightening can strike twice. In both HS2 consultations submissions by HS2AA (a leading opposition umbrella group) were 'overlooked'. The HS2AA 2011 consultation submission ran to 150 pages, and raised matters that have still not been covered in published materials.

Far from Government volunteering that there was a problem, this admission only comes after HS2AA alerted them to omissions on their website back in May, and raised why key matters had not been covered.

Last week HS2 Ltd issued a report addendum to the consultation, which aimed to cover the 413 missing responses. Since then errors have continued to mount. Submissions still appear to be missing, including our own Parish Council. Hints with Canwell Parish

on finding their original submission was excluded sent a copy but this too, has not been included in the addendum!. In addition, the response from our MP Chris Pincher has been 'miscategorised'.

Hilary Wharf, Director HS2AA, said *"The Government's Consultation was a sham. We already know that they had concealed crucial evidence, now we see that they 'lost' responses they didn't like. To lose our first consultation response back in 2010 was unfortunate but to lose it again smacks at carelessness. As a leading opposition organisation this is quite shocking. We gave extensive evidence in our 150 page report which covered material that is still excluded from the Consultation summary (concerning outdated and overstated figures on benefits)."*

"Natural justice demands Government now does one of two things - abandon HS2 as it lacks proper justification or re-run the full consultation with all of the facts on the table, including the awkward ones they tried to hide."