

Community Forums are intended to provide an opportunity for local representatives to raise issues of importance to them and to reach consensus on preferred mitigations for HS2 Ltd. Attendance at a Forum does not indicate support by these groups for the scheme.

HS2 Ltd hosts and attends Community Forums, and has undertaken to record and publish issues, actions and requests raised during these events on their website. The matters raised by forum members are their views, and publication by HS2 Ltd should not be construed as acceptance or agreement with the sentiments expressed.

Drayton Bassett, Hints and Weeford Community Forum

4th April 2012, 1830-2030, Hints Village Hall, School Lane

DRAFT Note

Forum Attendees

Chair – Cllr Alan White
Bangley Lane Residents Association
Christopher Pincher MP
Drayton Bassett HS2 Action Group
Drayton Bassett Parish Council
Flats Lane & Knox Grave Lane Residents Group
Hints and Area Action Group against HS2
Hints with Canwell Parish Council
Hints Village Hall
Lichfield District Council
National Farmers Union
Representatives from School Lane, Hints
Representatives from Federation of Small Businesses
Staffordshire County Council
Staffordshire Wildlife Trust
Swinfen and Packington Parish Council
Watling Street Residents Group
Weeford Parish Council

HS2 Representatives

HS2 Ltd (Mark Binns, HS2 Facilitator)
HS2 Ltd (Toria Stone, HS2 Secretariat)
HS2 Ltd (Lee Fisher, Senior Area Engineer)
HS2 Ltd (Sam Chinamasa, Area Engineer)
HS2 Ltd (Mark Bailey, Senior Environment Manager)
HS2 Ltd (Andrew Day, Environment Manager)

Issues and key points raised by Forum Members

- Flats Lane is a small community of 12 families and the route will dissect that community. A paper was tabled summarising community concerns for the area and community desires for mitigation. (Action 7)

- Clarification was requested regarding blight and compensation. This includes mitigation of the impact on the village of Hints as a whole, particularly on the environment and residences within the village and additionally the impact on the Village Hall which is the centre of community activity and involvement. (Action 29)
- Properties on Watling St – mitigation proposals were sought, particularly in relation to visual impacts and noise. (Actions 9, 10 & 11)
- A permanent community point of contact from HS2 Ltd was requested. (Action 12)
- Examples of community benefits were requested and the possibility of a cycle route was cited as one by HS2 Ltd. (Action 13)
- Concern was raised that landowners are being contacted more than once about the same thing and requested that there was one point of contact. (Action 14)
- More information on construction site security was requested. (Action 15)
- There are concerns over the 'out of scope' section in the Terms of Reference, as there was a feeling that it restricted the Forum in several areas namely restoring rights of way, safety and vibration over tunnels. (Action 2 & 3)
- A concern was raised that there had been no recognition that Hints is a conservation that has high landscape value and historical importance. (Action 16)
- More information on the Rayleigh Wave effect/impact (Vibration) was requested. (Action 17)
- Concerns with noise and light pollution (from electrical arching of pantographs) were raised. (Action 18)
- Concern was raised about alterations to existing roads. (Action 28)
- A guarantee was sought that the rolling stock depot would not be at Drayton Bassett. (Action 19)
- How high pressure gas mains would be dealt with was questioned. (Action 20)
- It was also stressed that research into natural conservation and environmental sites was needed. A bat feeding area for 3km along line of route was highlighted. (Action 21)
- Compliance with Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 was requested. (Action 22)
- The forum wished to have further information on construction traffic routes. (Action 15)
- It was highlighted that there should be no site traffic through Drayton Bassett. (Action 15)
- Concern that rights of way are not just restored but maintained throughout construction, and in the case of highways, volumes should not be significantly reduced and the effects on traffic need considering on a macro scale. (Action 28)
- Concern was raised about the height of a viaduct over the floodplain, where it was felt that it was unnecessarily high. (Action 9, 26)
- The possibility of crime in the area during construction was raised as a concern. (Action 15)
- Any removal of trees due to the scheme needed to be replaced with semi-mature trees. (Action 23)
- Provisioning of accommodation works for farmers and other property severed by HS2 and how this would fit into the landscape. (Action 24)
- Concerns were raised over the contamination of the soil. (Action 15, 25)
- Concerns that the mitigation report for Drayton Bassett submitted by the local group would be ignored. (Action 7)
- Point of contact with HS2 to discuss mitigation in more detail and to have a more consistent approach across the line. (Action 12)

- Federation of Small Businesses raised concerns about more development in the area on the back of HS2.
- Road diversions can leave unused ends of roads which could lead to fly tippers. (Action 14 & 27)
- Staffordshire Wildlife Trust would like clarification on route alignment (Action 8).
- Concern was raised about the alignment of Drayton Lane, Shirrall Drive and its junction. (Action 28)

Membership

Representatives from the following groups to be invited to future Community Forums. (Action 3)

- Bridleways Officer South Staffordshire.
- Wildlife Trust
- Heart of England Group.
- Small business representative.
- Observer from adjacent Middleton forum and a representative from this forum to observe adjacent forums.
- To leave membership of the group reasonably open.

Actions

1. Forum agreed Councillor Alan White as chair of meeting.
2. The Terms of Reference were generally agreed, subject to including local issues regarding vibration over tunnels, safety and rights of way.
3. HS2 Ltd to amend 'out of scope' section of Terms of Reference.
4. Community Forum asked HS2 to invite additional membership representatives as identified above.
5. HS2 Ltd to review of who 'Hopwas and Hints Action Group' are and advise status at next forum.
6. HS2 Ltd to review the submissions on mitigation to see what amendments are possible as at this stage the design of the line is at concept stage.
7. HS2 Ltd to review Flats Lane & Knox Grave Lane and Drayton Bassett submissions.
8. HS2 Ltd to provide A1 maps – 5 copies of plan and profile maps to groups at or prior to next Forum.
9. HS2 Ltd to consider noise and visual impacts during design development.
10. HS2 Ltd to arrange noise specialist attendance at future Community Forum at appropriate stage in scheme development to discuss noise impacts.
11. HS2 Ltd to consider visual impact when developing design.
12. It was confirmed Ruth Newsum is the community forum's HS2 Ltd's point of contact for this forum.
13. HS2 Ltd to confirm if it is legally possible to include 'Community Schemes' (such as HS2's cited example of a cycle route) within the Hybrid Bill.
14. HS2 Ltd to review process for contacting landowners.
15. HS2 to provide information on construction planning, proposed construction sites, site security and traffic together with construction controls at a future forum meeting to discuss impacts.
16. HS2 Ltd to confirm Hints status as a conservation area and consider this in developing the design.

17. HS2 Ltd to provide background on Rayleigh Waves effect and consider vibration (the impact of the Rayleigh Waves) in developing the design and feedback to forum at a future meeting to discuss impacts.
18. HS2 Ltd to consider noise and light impacts from electrical arching of pantograph in developing the design.
19. Christopher Pincher MP to seek clarification on the site of the depot from the Secretary for State.
20. HS2 Ltd to consider impact of utility diversions, particularly the gas pipeline and present possible proposals at a future forum meeting.
21. HS2 Ltd to consider natural conservation and environmental sites (including bat feeding area) in developing the design.
22. HS2 Ltd to confirm if the design will be developed in compliance with the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2008.
23. HS2 Ltd to present details of proposed planting at future forum meetings.
24. HS2 Ltd to present details of accommodation works at future forum meetings and consider the visual impact of these in developing the design.
25. HS2 Ltd to consider the risk of contamination in developing the design.
26. HS2 Ltd to consider lowering the alignment over the flood plain to reduce visual impact.
27. HS2 Ltd to consider measures to undertake for stopped up highways in design development.
28. HS2 Ltd to consider impact on existing rights of way and highways both during and post the construction phase.
29. HS2 Ltd to provide more information on property compensation at a future forum meeting.

Documents Tabled

1. Drayton Bassett Parish - HS2 Mitigation Booklet.
2. Flats Lane and Knox Grave Lane Residents Group submission.