
HS2 Liaison Group
Venue: Microsoft Teams
Minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2023 at 10.30 am

Representatives from the following organisations were present:

Cllr Phil Larratt (Chair)
David Cranwell (SNATRA)
Stephanie Brackpool (SNATRA)
Rebecca Boasman (Culworth)
John Merchant (Helmdon)
Cllr Tony Bagot-Webb WNC (Brackley & Cllr Cabinet Assistant HS2)
Maurice Cole (Thorpe Mandeville PC)
Nicola Thomas (FoB)
Clive Hockley (Hinton-in-the-Hedges PC)
Cllr Sue Sharps (WNC)
Andy Smith (Radstone)

Dame Andrea Leadsom MP
Hilary Walton (Whitfield PC)
Cllr Rosie Herring (WNC)
Cathy Ellis (Evenley PC)
Simon Bingham (Greatworth PC)
Cllr Rupert Frost (WNC)

In Attendance:

Esme Cushing (WNC)
Gary Pettit (WNC)
Nathan Lowde (WNC)
Simon Davis (EKFB)
Dave Butcher (EKFB)
Olivia King (National Highways)
Filippa St Alban D'Ancy (National Highways)
Ian Hadley (National Highways)
Andras Juhasz (HS2)
Nisha Mejer (HS2)

Apologies:

Chris James (EKFB)
Julie Ewers (WNC)
Cllr Alison Eastwood WNC (Silverstone)
Philip Freer (FoB)
Noemi Orban (National Highways)
Andrew Bodman (South Northants Action Group)
Cllr Fiona Baker (WNC)
Cllr Dermot Bambridge (Silverstone)
Cllr David Smith (WNC)
Janet Ormond (Thorpe Mandeville)
Charles Lees (Aston-Le-Walls PC)

MINUTES

1. Welcome, introductions, Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Cllr Larratt welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Minutes from the previous meeting were agreed and updates given on actions from the previous meeting as below:

- HS2 confirmed the type of rolling stock which was included in the last minutes
- EKFB have included updates for Evenly/Whitfield included in upcoming presentation
- NH confirmed that the inspection team completes safety inspection weekly and any safety critical potholes are filled and mitigated until permanent patches are in place and the current improvement schemes in the area include the A43 N from Silverstone to Towcester and that's on the currently on the ground with those and A43 Barley Mow to Oxford Road is planned for delivery in early January 2024.
- GP confirmed that Radstone Road is on a monthly inspection cycle. There has been some patching but some of the areas do not meet the investigation level. All potholes should be reported by Fix My Street so that there is an audit trail. Radstone Fields will be responsible for resurfacing once works finished to make good.
- NH confirmed that a fault with the street lighting on the A43 off slip to the B4525 was picked up on night inspection. It was found that a main isolator had burnt out and has now been replaced and the lighting system was checked and is fully operational again.
- NH has replied to the email from Farthinghoe NH confirmed that traffic was diverted through Farthinghoe due to an overturned car and was not related to HS2.

CE raised concerns that the repairs to the A43 will not be actioned until January 24 and reemphasised the poor state of the road and increasing deterioration and asked whether the works could be brought forward.

NH noted CE's concerns and confirmed that they would get their construction assurance team to drive the route and investigate if anything can be done.

Action – NH to update at the next meeting on timescale for repairs on A43 around the Tesco roundabout.

DB commented that GP is most proactive along the sections in the Central and thanked GP for the collaborative working relationship. PL thanked GP for his positive work with EKFB.

2. HS2/ EKFB update

EKFB gave a presentation giving an update on social value projects and construction updates (see presentation slides).

The following queries were raised during the construction updates:

NT raised the number of road closures and diversions in place over the next few months around Boddington and the impact that this will have on verges. What measures will be put in place to make good?

GP agreed that there is a lot of overriding around that area and a cost estimate from Kier for addressing this in particular relevant areas is underway (using the Archway Jet Patcher). This will be funded through the HS2 Pothole Fund. GP is happy to meeting with NT/PF to discuss further as necessary.

RH asked for assurance that the tie-ins for the Greatworth Tee will not cause issues with the traffic backing up as happened before.

EKFB confirmed that the closures will be done at the most suitable time to reduce impact (possibly weekend closures), but likely to be in July/August. Further details will be provided when available.

AL enquired around the coordination of the road closures, particularly around Greatworth and sought reassurance that signage will be clear so that can plan accordingly and that SatNav will reflect the closures.

EKFB confirmed that the signage will be as clear as so residents understand. In terms of SatNav, that is more challenging.

Action – WNC and EKFB to discuss opportunities to link with SatNav companies to reflect diversions/ road closures etc and to discuss advanced warning signage for Greatworth T in pre-app

SB mentioned that printed maps can be helpful for those doing school runs etc. It is about getting information out as early as possible.

SS mentioned that adverse weather conditions should be a consideration when road users are waiting at traffic lights etc. EKFB confirmed that this is something Traffic Safety Officer monitor.

NM noted that advanced work notices can be posted out to communities.

AL asked about workers accommodation on compounds and whether planning permission has been sought?

NL confirmed that no applications received as yet, however pre-app discussions are ongoing in relation to the A43 compound and the Chipping Warden compound. Waiting for HS2 to update when the Schedule 17 applications are likely to come forward.

RH raised some outstanding queries around the rolling stock and the noise assessment. DB offered to pick these up with RH separately.

CH highlighted that he was not aware of the road closures in the A43. EKFB encouraged CH to sign up to the email alerts from the HS2 website.

3. AOB

MC asked whether it would be ok to put selective slides on the parish council websites? EKFB confirmed that they were happy to work with parish councils and provide additional slides or maps to assist in explaining their construction activity. EKFB explained that they would prefer slides from the Liaison are not shared without approval. Since the meeting, however, EKFB have reviewed this position and see no problem with the slides being shared.

CE asked whether there were any ideas for stopping HGVs diverting through villages when there were accidents on the A43.

EKFB, HS2 and WNC all agreed that unfortunately without a weigh restriction in place, it is public highway and therefore HGVs are able to use it.

SNATRA raised concerns over the condition of the B4525 (Welsh Lane) and pointed out that this road forms part of the official cycle diversion route between Brackley and Silverstone, via High Cross Syresham. With the road closures commencing this weekend of the A43 for the temporary diversion, the need for a safe diversion along this route becomes paramount. SNATRA asked for a joint inspection.

Action: GP to speak to Kier to confirm inspection frequencies and provide a written update to SNATRA. Fix My Street should be used to report any potholes etc. [Post meeting note: The next monthly inspection of B4525 is scheduled for w/c 22nd May. Unfortunately it is not possible to facilitate joint inspections with members of the public for health and safety reasons due to the speed and volume of traffic on the road in this case. This has been communicated with SNATRA on 18/05/23]

SNATRA suggested that the temporary closures of the A43 at Brackley, will no doubt lead to increased traffic using the B4525. It is the official link between the M1 and the M40, via the A43. Unless something is done soon, this will result in the total degradation of the road surface of the B4525. From your works programmes shown today, it implies that both the A43 and the B4525 will have temporary closures at the same time. Is this correct?

Action: EKFB to confirm whether the A43 and B4525 will be closed at the same time

Date of future meetings:

- 21st July at 10.30am
- 15th September at 10.30am
- 8th December at 10.30am
- 16th February 10.30am

CLOSED ACTIONS

Date of action	Action	Status
22.02.23	HS2 to confirm the type of rolling stock to be used on HS2 and how this is being reflected in any noise assessments	Closed
22.02.23	EKFB to ensure updates for Evenley/ Whitfield and anything relevant cross border is covered in subsequent meeting presentations	Closed
22.02.23	National Highways to investigate road condition on the A43 and to report back at the next meeting	Closed
22.02.23	GP to speak to Kier about frequency of inspections on Radstone Road.	Closed
22.02.23	National Highways to investigate why the street lighting has been turned off on the A43 off slip to the B4525 and to report back to the next meeting.	Closed
22.02.23	National Highways to reply to the email from Farthinghoe PC by 2nd March 2023.	Closed