
HS2 Liaison Group
Venue: Microsoft Teams
Minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2023 at 10.30 am

Representatives from the following organisations were present:

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

Dame Andrea Leadsom MP
Jack Edwards (Parliamentary assistant)
Hilary Walton (Whitfield PC)
Cllr Rosie Herring (WNC)
Cathy Ellis (Evenley PC)
Cllr Alison Eastwood WNC (Silverstone)
Cllr Dermot Bambridge (Silverstone)
Nigel Galletly (Chipping Warden)

In Attendance:

Esme Cushing (WNC)
Gary Pettit (WNC)
Nathan Lowde (WNC)
Chris James (EKFB)
Simon Davis (EKFB)
Nisha Mejer (HS2)

Apologies:

Dave Butcher (EKFB)
Olivia King (National Highways)
Filippa St Alban D'Ancy (National Highways)
Ian Hadley (National Highways)
Noemi Orban (National Highways)
Julie Ewers (WNC)
Nicola Thomas (FoB)
Janet Ormond (Thorpe Mandeville)
Andrew Bodman (South Northants Action Group)
Andras Juhasz (HS2)
Matt Hawkins (Aston-Le-Walls PC)
Andrew

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:

National Highways were unable to attend the meeting to update on their actions, but agreed to provide via email.

Action: NH to provide update on timescale for repairs on A43 around the Tesco roundabout. WNC to circulate response.

EKFB's traffic team are still working through the diversions/ road closures for the Greatworth T and WNC will highlight at next pre-app.

Action – WNC and EKFB to discuss issues at next pre-app (road closures/ advanced warning signage etc for Greatworth T) and provide update at next meeting.

Response to SNATRA was sent on 22 June, but SNATRA said they didn't receive anything. GP to resend email if required.

2. HS2/ EKFB update

HS2 outlined that originally it was thought that new technology would be available to avoid the need for radio coverage between train drivers and rail signallers on HS2. However, this is not the case so there is a need for GSMR (global communications systems - railways) that are compatible with the existing rail networks. The GSMR's comprise of a concrete base which and then a telephone style mast. They will be located at regular intervals along the route between approx. 2.5 and 4km apart. EKFB will be installing the concrete base and the rail systems contractor would be responsible for installing the masts and community engagement (both will require a Schedule 17).

The points were raised around visual and landscape impacts and the importance of it being considered by WNC planners.

HS2 confirmed that a presentation had been given a while ago to WNC Planners but this was prior to NL's involvement.

ACTION: HS2 to forward presentation to WNC and provide briefing note/ photos/ drawings as available

ACTION: HS2 to arrange for a short presentation from the rails system team at a future meeting

ACTION: AL to speak to DfT and HS2 about GSMRs and report back on findings.

EKFB then gave a presentation on community engagement and construction updates (see slides).

Key points raised were:

A43 area:

- Better coordination is needed between road works on the SRN at A43 and A5 to minimise impact on drivers. AL has requested that road closures start at 9pm rather than 8pm. Multiple road closures are planned for over the summer period which is frustrating for road users.

ACTION: CJ to reinforce point in HS2/NH coordination meetings

ACTION: WNC to arrange a sub-group meeting with focus on A43. EKFB/NH/ HS2 to give forward look of works over next 6 months.

Radstone area:

- Noise has been significant and can be heard within people's houses. AS has taken recordings which he will share.
- EKFB confirmed that the piling work is around 2/3rds completed.
- WNC have been out to check the integrity of the equipment.

ACTION: EKFB to arrange site visit with Radstone in relation to PRowS and to see piling methodology and source of 'clanging'

Halse area:

- Advance planting for screening has been well received. Other opportunities are being investigated along the route for next planting season (autumn).

Greatworth area:

- Two phases to the Greatworth T.
- The access point for compound will be from the roundabout using a small link. Start to see tunnel segments being delivered to the compound.
- EKFB confirmed that in phase 1 that people will be able to turn right at junction with B4525. Junction has been designed to enable this movement.

Chipping Warden area:

- Tunnel section to be waterproofed and then backfilled and A361 to be put over the top. Will be some closures for tie ins.

Aston le Walls:

- Excavation moving on quickly.

Highfurlong Viaduct:

- Concrete beams being delivered over next 3-4 weeks. Abnormal load with an escort. Coming via Chipping Warden compound (from A361 Daventry direction).

Boddington:

- Positive feedback on diversion for Millenimum Way from local residents on how friendly and helpful the stewards are.
- Piling work taking shape and progressing well.
- Banbury Road – bridge construction is completed. Concrete has been poured.
- Ongoing engagement in this area around road closures.

Complaints and compliments:

- Number of complaints related to traffic and transport decreasing, more general enquiries on how will look once done etc.
- AE thanked SD for the great work done around engagement at this location, but urged that this should continue.
- Group encouraged to continue to use the HS2 Helpdesk.

AOB

- TB-W queried whether the Greatworth T would remain in place after construction. EKFB confirmed that it would be removed.
- SNATRA asked why the B4525 was not being considered for improvements as it was a busy B-road. WNC explained that the road safety team monitor the frequency of accidents and analyse any trends to determine if any interventions are required.

ACTION: EC to speak to road safety team to clarify whether any improvements are proposed on the B4525

Date of future meetings:

- 15th September at 10.30am
- 8th December at 10.30am
- 16th February 10.30am

CLOSED ACTIONS

Date of action	Action	Status
28/04/23	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.	Closed
28/04/23	EKFB to confirm whether the A43 and B4525 will be closed at the same time	Closed