
HS2 Liaison Group
Venue: Microsoft Teams
Minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2023 at 10.30 am

**Representatives from the
following organisations were
present:**

Cllr Tony Bagot-Webb WNC (Brackley
& Cllr Cabinet Assistant HS2)
Cllr Charles Manners
Andy Smith (Radstone)
John Merchant (Helmdon)
David Cranwell (SNATRA)
Stephanie Brackpool (SNATRA)
Andrew Partridge (Eydon)
Lorraine Jeynes (FoB)
Nicola Thomas (FoB)
Cllr Rosie Herring (WNC)
Dame Andrea Leadsom MP
Jack Edwards (Parliamentary assistant)

In Attendance:

Esme Cushing (WNC)
Gary Pettit (WNC)
Nathan Lowde (WNC)
Chris James (EKFB)
Simon Davis (EKFB)
Dave Butcher (EKFB)
Nisha Mejer (HS2)
Tim Ward (HS2)
Andras Juhasz (HS2)
Vincent Wall (HS2)

Apologies:

Cllr Phil Larratt (Chair)
Maurice Cole (Thorpe Mandeville PC)
Philip Freer (FoB)
Cllr Alison Eastwood WNC (Silverstone)
Cllr Dermot Bambridge (Silverstone)
Andrew Bodman (South Northants Action
Group)
Clive Hockley (Hinton-in-the-Hedges PC)
Olivia King (National Highways)
Filippa St Alban D'Ancy (National
Highways)
Julie Ewers (WNC)
Hilary Walton (Whitfield PC)
Cathy Ellis (Evenley PC)
Stuart Rolt (Thorpe Mandeville PC)

MINUTES

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

Cllr Bagott-Webb welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

Response from National Highways was circulated prior to the meeting. A number of queries were raised around the simultaneous closures of the A422 in Buckinghamshire and the M1 Junction 15a between 22nd and 25th September. During the meeting GP emailed a contact at National Highways and they confirmed:

“To extinguish any fears, there is no clash between next weekends A43 M1 jct 15a and A422 closures. The closures are at totally different ends of the A43. The diversion routes are as follows:

A43 M1 jct 15a – A5 / A45 (across M1 J16) / A4500 and vice versa. They are looking to also sign M1 jct 15 too.

A422 – A43 south to Barley Mow – A421 to Buckingham – A422 and vice-versa.”

Concern was expressed by the group that again National Highways were not in attendance at this meeting for the second time in a row to answer questions.

Action: WNC to write to NH to request that they ensure that there is a representative in attendance at this meeting

EKFB’s traffic team are still working through the diversions/ road closures for the Greatworth T and some outstanding actions relating to the Road Safety Audit. Greatworth T is likely to open in 4/6 weeks.

The meeting in relation to PRowS between Radstone and EKFB is still to take place.

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

EC has emailed the Road Safety Team and is awaiting a response.

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

2. HS2/ EKFB update

GSM-R presentation

Tim Ward (HS2 Ltd) gave a presentation on the Radio Systems for HS2. A data link is required between track and cab to remove need for lineside signalling. The train monitors the speed and safety and makes adjustments as necessary. To provide a robust connection between train and track you need GSM-R. The expectation was that the GSM-R would be upgraded by 2025, but this has been slightly delayed to 2026.

HS2 have now defined the requirements and there will be a total of 8 sites in Northamptonshire for masts and supporting infrastructure. The exact locations and details will be consented through the Schedule 17 process.

CJ talked through the broad locations along the route in Northamptonshire.

The following comments were made in response to the presentation given:

- The location of masts weren't shown in the Environmental Statement
- Concern about the visibility of the masts in the landscape
- When will local residents see the details of what is proposed?
- What opportunities will there be to propose alternative locations?
- Will there be consultation with local residents on the locations?
- What are the timescales for submission?
- Will it interfere with existing mobile phone signals, will mobile networks use the masts?

HS2/EKFB responded that:

- It is very clear that powers to install telecommunications masts were included in the provisions of the Act through Schedule 17
- WNC has the ability to refuse as long as they propose a viable different location or different design
- Site location plans and elevation plans will be provided as part of the Schedule 17 submission.
- Pre-app discussions will be carried out with WNC presenting the locations and discussing mitigation where appropriate so that they blend in with the landscape as far as possible. Many of them will be in cuttings. The ones close to the tunnel portals will already have other infrastructure so not creating a new impact. WNC could propose alternative locations as part of this process.
- There is no requirement in the HS2 Act for public consultation. EKFB will be following the same process as for other Schedule 17's that page turns will be done with parishes to explain the proposals.
- The programme is currently being put together and it may be that other changes will be submitted at the same time to reduce the number of Schedule 17 submissions.
- The masts will provide service for those on-board as mobile phone providers will be able to use the masts. The locations have been designed to enhance the existing mobile phone coverage and not interfere. It will not interfere with TV signals.

Members of the group felt that it was important for local residents to be consulted. EC pointed out that WNC are restricted by the Act what they can comment on/influence.

Action: Cllr Bagot-Webb to write to Assistant Director for Planning requesting consultation on the masts

Main Works update.

EKFB gave a presentation.

SNATRA raised concerns that the B4525 is not being upgraded despite it being used by HS2 for tunnel section deliveries and new developments in Banbury and at Towcester, resulting in higher traffic flows.

Cllr T B-W confirmed that WNC are monitoring the road carefully and that it is not being overlooked.

AP raised that maintenance on the B4525 was a current issue (potholes, signage). Cllr T B-W asked AP to copy him into any correspondence with Kier.

AP queried why there had been no further communication about why the Greatworth Tee was not being opened. CJ explained that the team were addressing some outstanding items that were raised as part of the Road Safety Audit. Expectation that it will open in around four weeks time.

AP also raised some specific examples where he felt traffic management delays could be addressed. CJ asked AP to send them through so that they could be considered.

AS raised concerns about the impact of moving the noise barrier in Radstone further away from the line.

Action – EKFB to arrange meeting with Radstone to provide further information and details

FoB raised that the extended hours of working in Boddington were causing distress to local residents – particularly the Sunday working of the track doublers. FoB asked how long the extended hours would be in place for and whether the track doublers could not be used on a Sunday to give residents one day without that particular noise so that they could enjoy their gardens in peace. CJ took this on board and will speak to colleagues.

AOB

None

Date of future meetings:

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

CLOSED ACTIONS

Date of action	Action	Status
21/07/23	NH to provide update on timescale for repairs on A43 around the Tesco roundabout.	Closed
21/07/23	ACTION: HS2 to forward presentation to WNC and provide briefing note/ photos/ drawings as available. Complete.	Closed
21/07/23	ACTION: HS2 to arrange for a short presentation from the rails system team at a future meeting Arranged for 15/09/23.	Closed
21/07/23	ACTION: AL to speak to DfT and HS2 about GSMRs and report back on findings. Letter from Minister circulated.	Closed.
21/07/23	ACTION: CJ to reinforce point in HS2/NH coordination meetings	Closed
21/07/23	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. Arranged for 08/09/23.	Closed