

# FRIENDS OF BODDINGTON

## Report to the Parish Council – 6/9/2017

Following the report to the Parish Council on August 25 2017, and subsequent meetings, I am pleased to report the following information.

Listed below are the answers provided by Lydia Smith, HS2, to the recent questions raised by the residents of Lower Boddington and by the FOB group.

- 1) Why can't the construction traffic go down the route rather than the roads in the village?
  - We have asked our contractor to look into using the trace of the line rather than the road network where possible. This will be part of the detailed design that the contractor undertakes. However, not all traffic will be able to use the trace and we will still have a need to use the road network.
- 2) What land will remain the property of HS2/Network rail and what will be returned to the original land owner/farmer?
  - Legally we are required to return any land to the land owner which is not required for the operation or maintenance of the railway. We should know exactly which land will be returned once the contractor has the detailed designs.
- 3) Is it possible to modify a permanent footpath diversion that is currently planned
  - This would need to be discussed with the contractor, Council and landowner to see if it would be possible.
- 4) Can the balancing ponds be made more permanent i.e. always full of water?
  - This will come out during the detailed design phase, which will assess whether the ponds are required and how deep they will need to be.
- 5) When will you be publishing the contractors programme? We'd like to understand their timescales for design and build.
  - The contractor has 16 months to complete the detailed design of the railway, which includes the programme, we will keep you updated as this progresses.
- 6) When will you understand the numbers and nature of construction traffic? We'd like to see your traffic management plan ASAP.
  - The contractor has 16 months to complete the detailed design of the railway, which includes the programme, we will keep you updated as this progresses.
- 7) An existing part of land in the village is used as car parking for the Carpenters Arms public house, your potential traffic flow will need to use this section of land in order to make a turn, will you be looking to provide replacement parking for the pub during this time? Or will you make the land hand standing and allow parking outside your working hours only?

- We will know during the detailed design whether that we would need land for the construction period, so we couldn't say whether this would be available.
- 8) Boddington is considering options to do with some space in it's Village Hall, is there any possibility HS2 would be interested in hiring the space for meetings/conferences occasionally?
- Yes, we used the Village Hall for an event last year and would be happy to use it for future meetings.
- 9) We'd like to obtain full sectional drawings that detail the level of the railway in comparison to the Lower Boddington village. The village isn't currently shown on the existing sections. Are these available now or do we need to wait for the detailed design?
- This would come about during the detailed design
- 10) We're very concerned with traffic through the village, it's an existing problem that HS2 is only going to make worse for the duration of the construction. Would HS2 be willing to fund improved signage in the village, perhaps the automatic speed warning signs? If HS2 won't could this be applied for under CEF?
- This is something that the council may be able to provide for you, so it would be worthwhile speaking to them, as this is a current and ongoing problem. You can apply for signage under CEF, although you would need to complete the eligibility checker first.
- 11) There are a number of very old listed properties immediately next to the Banbury Road, these residents are very concerned about vibration from your traffic movements, these properties don't have any foundations. Will you be carrying out an independent structural survey on these properties prior to your work and after to ensure no damage has been caused?
- We won't be carrying out structural surveys on properties.

On Friday August 4, Trish Wilson of Cedar Farm contacted FOB and asked if we can help prevent possible occupation by travellers on the land that was used by the Fir Tree nursery as suspected travelers were spotted on the land. The glass houses were demolished some time ago and the land is open and easily occupied. There is also the attraction of power and water to be tapped as well. This land is now owned by HS2 Ltd. If travelers do occupy the land it would be very time consuming legally as HS2 Ltd own it, to get them to act and would be difficult anyway. What is needed is for HS2 Ltd to put large physical barriers at entrance, plus anywhere else if needed. I contacted Lydia Smith of HS2 immediately to communicate this threat as a matter of urgency to be addressed. I also informed PC Chairman, Dennis Burton, of the concern.

On Tuesday 8 August I received an Email from Lydia Smith, HS2, regarding Fir Tree Nursery:

*I have now had the opportunity to speak to colleagues about this. HS2 do not own the land at Fir Tree Nursery, we are in the process of purchasing the land, but it is still in the current landowners ownership as it stands.*

*I have informed our land and property team that travellers have been seen on this land, as we will need to secure it once we have purchased it. It might be worthwhile contacting the current owners to alert them to this, as they will have an interest in this.*

*Please keep me up to date with any progress on this and I will make sure that our security team and land and property teams are aware.*

Date of the next FOB meetings – September 21st.

FOB continues to deliver the best outcome for the residents of the Boddingtons.

Philip Freer, Chairman, Friends of Boddington

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