

FRIENDS OF BODDINGTON

Report to the Parish Council – 3/10//2017

Following the report to the Parish Council on September 6 2017, the monthly FOB meeting on Thursday September 21, the HS2 Liaison Meeting at The Forum, SNC Offices and subsequent meetings, I am pleased to report the following information.

As stated in the last FOB report, 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 travellers were spotted on the land. We advised Trish Wilson of the email I had received from Lydia Smith, HS2, which stated: *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.

The situation still is not resolved. On Friday 22 September I had a meeting with Tommy Gilchrist, Parliamentary Assistant to the Rt. Hon. Andrea Leadsom MP, expressing our concerns regarding Fir Tree Nursery. He realised the serious implications to the Boddington Parish and is taking the matter further.

Other HS2 land purchases:

FOB intend to identify the land agents who are dealing with property matters at HS2 Ltd. Our concern is that as HS2 Ltd increasingly become a remote landowner in our parish, it will be important for us to have that contact with their property team, particularly on matters such as security and land for potential purchase by the PC for long term investments and benefit to Parish, such as Fir Tree Nursery.

By the next FOB meeting we intend to study the HS2 development map and get a detailed list of landowners contacts and agents names acting on behalf of local landowners.

HS2 Liaison Meeting

I raised the following points, concerns and objectives that we identified at our FOB meeting.

Agenda item 4b) Discussion on how we wish to be treated by HS2 Ltd

1. The main concern at this point is how we start the dialogue with the main contractor so that we can exert influence on the detailed design works to mitigate the impact for the village, both during construction and long term. From the minutes of the last meeting with Lydia,

she seemed to make a number of references to the contractor having 16 months, but obviously from our perspective, it will be really important for us to establish the contact as early as possible in this timeline - can Lydia tell us how?

2. Relationship with HS2 and the contractor
3. Ensure FOB is involved with the contractor discussions
4. The contractor has a meeting with each Parish ASAP
5. FOB want a collaborative approach not one of conflict
6. Names and contact details with contractor
7. Early indication and land purchase opportunities of land that could be purchased from HS2 after construction that could be of benefit in the long term for the Boddington Parish.

Another important Agenda item **4d) Design Panel report and wider discussion on gantries**

The concern expressed by FOB is that HS2 may deliver a cheap gantry design in the Boddington section of HS2 that will not be environmental friendly. The Overhead Catenary System (OCS) or gantries are categorised as equipment. The general public therefore has little or no input into their design. As a priority FOB believe that the visual intrusion and impact on our environment in the Boddington sector of HS2 is of vital importance.

Mark Thurston, Chief Executive HS2 Ltd stated in a letter to Tommy Gilchrist dated 20 September 2017, that:

The design of the Overhead Catenary System (OCS) must first and foremost comply with the technical performance requirements to ensure that HS2 operational needs are met. However, I would like to reassure you that the OCS designers will be required to consider the sensitivities in particular locations to make sure that the OCS structure design will compliment and contribute to the natural and built environment. Whilst the system of wires that provides power to the train is fixed, there is some ability to adapt OCS support structure design to meet these local aspirations.

The design of the OCS will be monitored by the independent Design Panel through a series of design presentations. This is to make sure that that the designs of structures and other related design aspects of the HS2 railway system will, in so far as possible, meet local aspirations.

The design of the OCSW structures used on the open route section will be defined as part of the OCS design and build contract which will commence in 2020 following the appointment of the railways Systems Contractors. The HS2 Railway System works information and contract requirements will require Railway Systems Contractors to consider aesthetics and local sensitivities as part of their design development process.

The PC will appreciate that as an action point, FOB Team has some challenging years ahead.

An extract from the latest Chair's Report July 2017 HS2 Independent Design Panel

Lessons learned from Phase One to benefit Phase Two One of the key messages from the Design Panel to HS2 Ltd at this stage has been the importance of learning lessons from the design evolution of the Phase One route for the benefit of Phase Two. In particular, the panel has highlighted the potential for views from the train to make travelling by HS2 Ltd an enjoyable experience, and for the new railway to become a positive addition to the landscape.

Our main concern is that “*the potential for views from the train to make travelling by HS2 Ltd an enjoyable experience*” rather than the importance of views to the local environment is a priority and HS2 will have difficulties for the new railway to become a positive addition to the landscape!

CEF

The following costs/projects are not eligible for funding through CEF;

- Personal equipment and clothing
- Purchasing vehicles
- Buying land or facilities for future use (for example where the community/public benefit will not be realised within the timescales for this funding programme or to stop future development)
- Projects intended primarily for private gain
- Projects that contribute directly to a company's distributable profits
- To help with budget shortfalls, debt repayments
- Retrospective funding – we will not reimburse costs already incurred Project or activities that are or endowments (including funds to build up a reserve or surplus and loan repayments)

Examples of CEF projects:

Examples of projects as recommended by Grounwork for CEF that will enhance the quality of life and the environment of communities disrupted by the construction of HS2:

- Improved pedestrian, equestrian, or cycle access not provided under statutory services;
- Landscape and nature conservation enhancement projects which increase biodiversity (including pop up interventions such as skip gardens);
- Enhancement or replacement of sports and recreational facilities;
- Improved access and enhancements to public open space;
- Provision of enhanced or new community facilities; and
- Refurbishment/re-use of historic buildings and monuments

FOB recommends that the proposed improved sports facilities on the Charles Cowper Field and extension to the Village Hall should be the first CEF application for the Parish. The project satisfies the funding criteria as the whole community and the school would benefit from new facilities

An update on the Chipping Warden Relief Road as this will impact on many Parish residents. NCC have had a meeting with HS2 Ltd who have confirmed that the Relief Road will be part of the enabling works and FUSION their contractors will be commissioned shortly to do the detailed design. The expectation is that the scheme will start on site in spring/summer 2018.

FOB at all times is working diligently for the wellbeing of all Boddington residents but it is difficult to find out what's really going on despite our best endeavours. Lydia Smith of HS2 is scheduled to attend our next meeting on 19 October. The main concern at this point is how we start the dialogue with the main contractor so that we can exert influence on the detailed design works to mitigate the impact for the village, both during construction and long term.

We do not want to set unachievable objectives but the intention of FOB is to deliver the best outcome possible for the residents of the Boddingtons.

Philip Freer, Chairman, Friends of Boddington