



FRIENDS OF BODDINGTON

Report to the Parish Council – 04/04/2018

Following the report to the Parish Council on March 7th. 2018, the HS2 Northants Liaison Group meeting on March 9th. 2018, the monthly FoB meeting on March 22nd. 2018 and subsequent meetings, I am pleased to report the following information.

HS2 Northants Liaison Group

I attended the meeting of HS2 Northants Liaison Group meeting on March 9th. – Malcom Stewart and Steven Allonby-Briggs accompanied me.

Community Engagement Update

Julie King, HS2 Director of Community Engagement gave an update on Community Engagement. In summary:

- Pre-construction activities have started and before the main construction can start there will be property that needs to be purchased and this needs to be dealt with showing compassion, care and empathy
- HS2 Ltd recognises the traffic impact and challenges that construction routes will have.
- Building capacity in Community Engagement: Nisha Meyer, Community Engagement Manager C3 HS2 Ltd is permanent and embedded within the local area and is the main contact on a day to day basis in our section.
- The overarching Community Engagement Strategy outlines how HS2 Ltd is going to engage and there will be a Local Engagement Plan which will be tailored to local needs
- The main HS2 website will be ready within 4 to 5 months, but the commonplace websites with more localised information will be launched shortly
- HS2 Ltd are building their team on the helpdesk as teams need to be ready and able to answer questions posed or seek answers to the questions
- Health and Safety education programme for young people regarding the dangers of construction sites will be carried out in schools
- Very much aiming to work as one team (HS2 Ltd, contractors)
- Committed to attending this Liaison Group going forward

Julie King then invited thoughts from the group. The main comments were:

- If you Google the HS2 helpdesk phone number it still comes up with the old number not the new Freephone number
- Generally communication has not been a good experience

- Website is very useful, but social media/apps allows engagement much quicker and could be more interactive with updates etc.
- There are a number of planning applications that may result in additional traffic on HS2 construction routes – do HS2 Ltd have the ability to object to planning applications?
- When will further information be made available to local residents regarding lorry movements?
- Some members of the group said that they were happy with way relationship with HS2 Ltd has developed. However there has not been enough notice of some works in particular the lack of information regarding the Heave test
- Disappointing that after wanting to engage on website, the website is seemingly designed and ready to go and appears not to be fit for purpose as what has been shared appears to have a national focus rather than a local focus
- There was a concern from the group about wanting to engage with HS2 Ltd before the final design is ‘locked down’

In response Julie King said:

- Social media can be a great tool. However, it relies on having the staff to resource it. It may be something that they look to include as part of a future Helpdesk contract. The commonplace website will provide an elements of interactivity and regular updates. They are also building an app that people can use to report issues straight to the helpdesk
- HS2 Ltd will speak to colleagues on why there was a breakdown in communication with regards to inputting into the website design
- They are looking to minimise traffic impact with elements constructed off-site and brought in. Information on lorry movements should be known by end of the year
- HS2 Ltd will be bringing plans to the local community but is having to get local authorities on board before engagement
- Enabling works will be completed by Spring 2018. The Main Civils element will be phased.

Actions: HS2 Ltd to investigate and report back on whether they can object to planning applications

Enabling works and main works update

After an introduction from HS2 Ltd, Fusion and Simon Mathews of EiffageKier gave a presentation.

The focus of the enabling works is to get ready for construction (ecology surveys, road improvements works). Scheme design is due in May 2018.

There are three elements in South Northants; Chipping Warden Relief Road, A361/Welsh Road and B4525/Sulgrave Road. Early designs were shared with the group.



Two meetings have been held with NCC regarding the relief road. There are still some outstanding issues the main ones of which are;

- speed limit,
- balancing ponds,
- acoustic barrier
- highway boundary.

Detailed design is planned to be completed by April, mobilisation will be in summer 2018, with completion by March 2019.

Nisha Meyer is going to be holding monthly surgeries. Chipping Warden invited HS2 Ltd to attend April Parish meeting.

Greatworth PC highlighted their concerns regarding the number of HGVs that use the B4525 and that three HGVs have recently come off the road and they do not consider the design suitable to accommodate that traffic, particularly when Helmdon Road is closed as this will be the main route out of the village.

Just outside of South Northants, there will be some widening and pedestrian crossing safety measures at Wardington and also a re-modelling of M40 junction 11.

Brackley Town Council asked EK about progress of the design of the A43/A422 roundabout to accommodate the additional numbers of HGVs.

HS2 Ltd explained that they have been in contact with Highways England over the roundabouts along the A43, however they could not provide a specific update on the A43/A422 roundabout.

The Group asked whether it would be possible for a full set of the latest drawings made public could be provided. The Hybrid Bill maps are the latest maps that have been made available.

There was a frustration from some of the group that HS2 Ltd was reactive and not proactive enough; that it is reacting to situations rather than involving the local community in the project who know the local details, and if they do ask then HS2 Ltd do not take any notice.

EK are working towards designing a scheme that allows them to set a target price by November 2018 (stage 1). Stage 2 commences in March 2019 and the first priority will be to clear route of the trace for earthworks etc. Having to work within the undertakings and assurances given. Currently they are investigating opportunities to use innovative pre-cast concrete design for some elements. Design will be sensitive to local surroundings but will be recognisable as a style common to HS2.

Key design elements of Lower Thorpe and Edgcote viaducts have been discussed with the Independent Design Panel and shared with Parish and District Councils and EK gave a brief overview of how the viaducts have been designed to reduce the visual impact. There will be further stakeholder engagement on these designs.



The group enquired whether risk assessments of derailments at Radstone for example had been undertaken.

Action - HS2 Ltd to update the group on status of risk assessments of derailments

The trial cutting at Wormleighton, known as the Boddington Cutting, with a 200,000m³ trial hole to monitor behaviour of soil is being carried out and to learn how the land behaves over a period of a year (including a wet and dry season).

EK gave a short explanation about the test process.

- There will be 20-30 construction vehicles for the road construction period to bring in the stone required to build the access route.
- Warwickshire County Council will approve the lorry route consent.
- WCC have agreed to consult NCC on the consent (HS2 Ltd do not have a requirement to do so, just to notify adjoining authorities).

Chipping Warden outlined their concern that they had not been informed about the trial cutting. EK stated that they are planning to meet all the parish councils over the next few months with a public exhibition in June/July.



HS2 Road Safety Fund

NCC gave a brief update. Engineers from Northamptonshire Highways will be going out to drive the construction routes by mid April to look at the proposals put forward so far and to check that no other opportunities have been missed.

Parishes are encouraged to send through any further ideas for projects by the end of March. This is just to concentrate minds rather than a final cut-off date as the funding is available until 2026. Once a potential list of schemes have been identified NCC will apply to HS2 Ltd to draw down some funding for feasibility design and to devise a programme. Once there is more clarity on costs, further amounts of funding will be drawn down for detailed design and construction of schemes.

Evenley PC and Friends of Boddington (Boddington PC) raised concerns regarding the timeframe for implementation of the Road Safety Fund,

Friends of Boddington raised a concern that the road safety improvements as submitted to NCC needed in Boddington before the Boddington Cutting commences will not be possible.

NCC explained that due to resourcing issues and the Section 114 notice, the authority is facing challenges securing resource and that there are lead-in times for design and delivery.

Evenley PC also expressed frustration regarding the timescales and outlined that they had been in discussion with Northamptonshire Highways for some time and that there had been no progress and poor communication. After further discussion, HS2 Ltd agreed to investigate the possibility of assisting NCC with the concerns raised.

Action: HS2 Ltd and NCC to speak further regarding delivery of Road Safety Fund schemes

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Friday 1 June 2018 at 2pm at The Forum, Towcester.

Friends of Boddington monthly meeting held on March 22nd. 2018

Nisha Meyer, Community Engagement Manager C3 HS2 and Chris James, Community Engagement Manager of EiffageKier, were guests at the meeting.

Public Meeting to be held at the Village Hall on April 11th. 2018.

Chris James outlined the HS2/EK/Fusion presentation to the parish. FoB agreed that the format will be an open forum with pictorial details of the Boddington Cutting Heave location, PowerPoint presentation, and technical details laid out on tables with EK staff manning these to answer questions. The public meeting will last from 18.30-21.00. At 20,00 there will be a question and answer session chaired by Dennis Burton. The panel will consist of Philip Freer, FoB, Chris James and team of (4 or 5 people) EiffageKier, Fusion, and Nisha Meyer, HS2. The presentation session to last no more than ½ hour, followed by open forum again until 21.00 when the meeting will close.

A flyer advertising the meeting with EK and FoB logos will be produced which will emphasise the joint nature of the evening. This flyer will be an invitation to join the evening and will be delivered to every residence in the parish.

An entry into the B&W has been submitted and the event will be posted on Facebook, FoB website. Invitations will also be given to the Plough and the Carpenters Arms and displayed on the village notice boards

Nisha Meyer will email the invitation to the following local parish councils, Wormleighton, Aston le Walls, Chipping Warden, Claydon and Fenny Compton. FoB agreed to try and establish relationships with the neighbouring PCs.

Chris James explained that this will be the first time that EiffageKier have undertaken a presentation of this kind so are unsure of how it will be received. He made FoB aware that there might be some protestors present but that security staff would give the wrong flavour to the evening. It was suggested that the local community police could be advised that the event is taking place so that, should any trouble arise, they could respond speedily.

All attendees will be asked to sign the guest book.

EiffageKier progress since last meeting.

Chris James has met with;

- Other communities: representatives from Chipping Warden, Wormleighton, Priors Hardwick and Aston le Walls.
- Authorities: meetings with planning departments (NCC and Warwickshire) Highways depts., and police.
- Specialist groups: canal and river trust, ornithological society.

The route the heavy traffic will take to the Heave site has yet to be finalised, meetings at schools has been put on hold. Should the A361 route be chosen then these meetings will be put in place but if access is to be via Wormleighton then no schools will be affected.

Update on the Boddington Cutting HEAVE Trial



Chris James explained that the works are now at development, design and cost stage.

EiffageKier has been discussing the transport route with Highways Departments and the Police. As a result of the concerns outlined by FoB at the February meeting and the map sent to EK showing the pinch points, there is a good possibility that access to the Heave site will be from the Banbury-

Southam road through Wormleighton. This is the route FoB identified as causing minimal problems compared to the A361.

It appears notice has been taken of the recommendations made by FoB.

Chris James explained that once the main works begin in May 2019, main access onto the construction site will be via the Chipping Warden relief road (to be built to carry works traffic) and then onto the trace.

This should mean minimal heavy traffic passing through Lower Boddington.

Chris James explained that

- access to the Boddington Cutting will be via the road to Priors Hardwick further than the current field access.
- Security arrangements: There will be 24hr security which will mean lighting at night but the site is not near housing so lights should not impinge on properties.
- Noise control: will adhere to Section 61 agreement of environmental control.
- Hoardings: Chris would welcome feedback on how hoardings should appear to meet with local preference. General consensus was painted plain green.

Update on the Main HS2 Construction

FoB asked Chris James when we might have construction details and the contractors timetable.

Chris James replied that;

- work on the main trace will begin in March 2019
- the trace will be cleared and fenced later this year by Fusion
- Hedges will be cleared before nesting birds and the breeding season of protected species
- Badgers removed
- Landowners will be notified in due course
- the clearance and fencing will not occur until after this seasons harvest and when nesting has finished so there will be no footpath disturbance until then.

- after construction, landscaping and reinstatement is very much part of the costing process.

Concern was expressed unanimously by FoB, that;

- this part of the timetable had not been made clear, as landowners are totally unaware of this imminent preconstruction work and the significant implication to their businesses.
- the arrangements for footpaths particularly once the fencing was erected. Chris explained that some diversion of footpaths may occur and that some will be closed during actual construction but will be reinstated after the construction of HS2.

FoB asked when we might be able to see what the bunding for the village might look like. Chris James thought that details would probably be available by the April FoB meeting and he was keen to be kept informed of our sensitive issues.

Chris James was anxious that the public meeting on 11th April was kept focused on the Heave construction and not on the whole build project which was still the subject of dialogue. It was agreed that while every effort to contain discussion on 11th April to the Heave build would be made, it was anticipated that parishioners would be likely seeking information about the wider construction process.

When questioned on the agreements regarding issues such as bunding that had been previously reached would be honoured as there seemed to be a lot of new decisions being made. Chris James explained that all established agreements would be the starting point for future discussions and any undertakings would stand. FoB asked that we see the agreements reached to determine whether they matched our understanding of the undertakings. It was agreed that Chris and Nisha attend the next meeting of FoB which was set for Wednesday April 25th.to discuss our concerns.

FoB asked;

- For a cross section drawing from the the finished line to Lower Boddington and clarification on what and when we can make information/drawings available to the residents of Boddington

- When the costing process would be complete. Chris James confirmed that it will be finalised by November of this year

CEF grant application.

FoB asked Nisha Meyer if she would consider giving HS2 Ltd support to the application made by Boddington PC for CEF funding for a significant play area at the Charles Cowper field in Upper Boddington. HS2 support would be positive, tangible and be good PR considering the additional impact and disruption to the village as a direct result of the Boddington Cutting Heave trial.

Malcolm Stewart explained that a CEF application for £75,000 has been submitted and he explained that this project had been developed after consultation in the parish through the Parish Plan. He gave Nisha a copy of the Parish Plan so she could show this to interested parties. Nisha agreed to speak to Luke Napier and press for a positive outcome. All agreed that a positive decision in time for the April 11th meeting would be hugely favourable.

The playground suppliers would like to come to the 11th meeting.

It was agreed a letter of support and congratulation be sent to the Village Hall team who have done excellent work in putting the CEF bid together.

HS2 Northants Liaison Group meeting held on 9th. March

Philip Freer, Malcolm Stewart and Steven Allonsby-Briggs stated that the HS2 Road Safety Fund section of the meeting could only be described as shambolic. An SNC arranged presentation was given that was very Brackley focussed.

SNC have access to the allocated £1.65m from the HS2 Road Safety fund for our section. Apparently, SNC will be unable to determine any allocation for 18 months due to resourcing issues and the Section 114 notice. The authority is facing challenges securing resource and that there are lead-in times for design and delivery.

Following the last meeting, FoB had written to Esme Cushing to express concern that Boddington did not appear to feature as an area bidding for funding and highlighted the plans where funding

would be used. Despite assurances from Steven Barber that he would submit a bid for the works needed, nothing had materialised. At the HS2 liaison meeting FoB members stressed that funding was needed now, particularly given the imminent Boddington Cutting Heave trial and that a timetable of 18 months was not acceptable.

I have written to Julie King, HS2, Director of Community Engagement with a copy to Rt. Hon. Andrea Leadsom MP, regarding the road safety issues that must be addressed now and to take our case to a higher level.

Centenary celebrations for end of WW1.

There is a national proposal for communities to celebrate this event on Armistice Day.

I received the following email from Sally Jones, not as a Parish Councillor but in her capacity as a supporter of the Jubilee Fields. The content was included in the FoB agenda for discussion.

'Boddington Parish are going to join in the centennial celebrations for the end of World War 1 on the weekend of 11/11/18. Whilst the Parish Council do not wish to run this event under their name, I am still happy to help coordinate the event.

We would like to join the pageantmaster Bruno Peek's celebrations, which include a beacon and church bell ringing in the evening, but wish to invite all the village groups (or individuals) to join in the celebrations in some way. (FYI I include the leaflet from Bruno Peek about the event).

I wondered whether the Friends of Boddington would be willing to add something to the celebrations, with a Lower Boddington emphasis perhaps.

Please could you let me know whether you are willing to join in, and if so, what you might like to do - the event will gain more structure as we receive responses, but so far we have the school, WI, Jubilee Field Community Group, church and The Plough joining in.

The item was discussed, and a response sent reminding Sally Jones that FoB represented **ALL** of Boddington so to seek specific Lower Boddington representation from FoB went against the spirit

of our constitution. It was unanimously agreed that her request for involvement be declined as FoB was in existence for HS2 issues only so to appear to be another quasi group was inappropriate.

FoB continues to work for the wellbeing of every resident in the Boddington parish.

Philip Freer - Chairman - Friends of Boddington

Boddington Cutting & Ground Investigation

Public Meeting

HS2 enabling works activity will be starting soon and involves a deep cutting along the line between Wormleighton and Priors Hardwick as well as ground investigations along the route.



You are invited to attend a community engagement forum to meet with HS2 representatives and the Contractors Eiffage Kier to find out about the construction works and how it will impact upon the local communities.

Boddington Village Hall April 11th from 18:30 – 21:00

Open forum - 18:30

Presentation from Friends of Boddington, HS2 & Eiffage Kier - 19:30 – 20:00

Open forum - 20:00 – 21:00

To help ensure any questions you have get answered please email them to ask@friendsofboddington.co.uk prior to the 9th of April.