



HS2 E Update

April 2021

What is Buckinghamshire Council doing on behalf of residents?

Working with Milton Keynes and Bucks Association of Local Council (MKBALC) we organised two HS2 events where we invited contractors and EWR to give updates and answer questions. The events were held on 23 and 30 March and we received some good feedback; parishes in particular liked the short technical videos demonstrating how certain works will be delivered.

Throughout April planning/highways officers have held a number of Member Information Group meetings to brief Buckinghamshire Councillors on forthcoming Schedule 17 applications and answer their questions.

Council officers now meet monthly with senior Department for Transport HS2 officials to discuss various issues. In March we discussed the HS2 Road Safety Fund (RSF) and the inadequacy of the current amount. We followed this up with a letter laying out our rationale for requesting an increase in the RSF. We also heard directly from them on the appointment of Construction Inspectors to monitor HS2 construction, to ensure what is happening on the ground matches HS2 reports, as well as undertake independent reviews of some aspects of the HS2 proposals.

The Council is looking to recruit 2 local HS2/EWR Traffic Marshalls who will be mobile, working with the HS2 contractors Traffic Control Site Officers (TCSOs) to resolve issues which are within the Council's powers. These officers will also need to work with the DfT inspectors and East West Rail Traffic Ambassadors. It is good that the messages about the need to monitor activity on the ground has been taken up by DfT, BC, HS2 Ltd and EWR in response to local concerns, particularly flagged at the Transport Select Committee, by Calvert Parish Council and supported by Greg Smith MP.

HS2 has appealed against our non-determination of 4 lorry route applications for 6 sites along the A413 corridor (and on the A422 near Turweston/Brackley). Overall, we are not satisfied that HS2 has provided sufficient information to demonstrate that the proposals will not create nor worsen congestion. We are concerned about the cumulative impact of all the HS2 sites. The outcome of the appeals is expected over the summer.

HS2 Ltd/Align wanted to close the A413 for two weekends in April to carry out utility works. Buckinghamshire Council refused due to lack of mitigation being proposed and concerns about displaced traffic. We continue to discuss plans for these proposed works.

The Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader and local member and Cabinet Member for Transport, as well as the Service Director and Head of Service carried out a site visit to the Calvert area on 14 April to see for themselves the increasing construction activities.

HS2 Minister Written Statement to Parliament March 2021

Andrew Stephenson MP has published a statement. This is the second biannual update to Parliament on the progress of High Speed Two (HS2). It marks one year since the government gave Phase One of the scheme, between the West Midlands and London, the green light to begin civil construction. You can read the full statement here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/hs2-6-monthly-report-to-parliament-march-2021>

HS2 Independent Design Panel Chair's Winter 2020 Report

Sadie Morgan, who is Chair of the Panel has published her latest report, which you can read here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/975992/2012-HS2-IDP-Chair_s_report_Winter_2020_21.pdf

Increase in Protester Activity

There has been a noticeable increase in protesters coming into the County and causing incidents. One such incident occurred on 23 March involving a large group of protesters from the camp on the A413 near Wendover who attacked contractor security staff. This was covered by the media:

<https://www.constructionenquirer.com/2021/03/29/hs2-construction-workers-attacked-by-30-strong-mob/>

Tree Felling Paused at Jones Hill Wood, Wendover

HS2 Ltd has been ordered to stop felling trees as campaigners launched a legal action against Natural England, who issued the Bat License. The order grants temporary relief for the woodland.

<https://www.bucksfreepress.co.uk/news/19246175.hs2-ordered-stop-felling-trees-jones-hill-wood-near-wendover-campaigners-launch-legal-action-natural-england/>

HS2 Ordered to Publish Assessment of Risks to the Public Water Supply

A first tier tribunal has made a unanimous decision that HS2 Ltd was not entitled to withhold assessments of the risks that their pile-driving in the Colne Valley poses to public water supplies. HS2 Ltd must now must publish unredacted versions of three risk assessments for

work taking place in the drinking water protected areas of the Colne Valley, by 21st May 2021. You can read the full ruling here:

<http://stophs2.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/144-190421-Green-S-EA2020-0088V-Judges-Final-DECISION-19.04.21-.pdf>

HS2 ongoing work

You can see the work that is taking place in Buckinghamshire on the HS2 website, Commonplace section, (Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire) and also sign up for automatic alerts. HS2 Ltd or contractors are committed to send out Advanced Warning Notices 2 weeks ahead of works commencing:

<https://hs2inbucksandoxfordshire.commonplace.is/schemes/proposals/works-in-your-area/details>

Works in Buckinghamshire

Although still classed as preparatory/early works there are some quite substantial impacts already being experienced by our communities. I have listed some of the main works (but this is not a comprehensive list)

Works	Duration
Colne Valley Viaduct construction	Mar 2021-2023
Closure of DEN3/1 footpath	Oct 2020-Oct 2021
Amersham, Gore Hill roundabout improvement works	Nov-Spring 2021
Jones Hill Wood, site set up	Mar 2021-Summer 2021
Archaeology and bat house works, South Heath	Jan 2021-Spring 2021
Archaeology and tree planting, Rocky Lane to Leather Lane	Jan 2021 -Spring 2021
Aylesbury A418 utilities diversions	Mar 2021-Nov 2021
St Mary's church, Stoke Mandeville archaeology	Sep 2020-Summer 2021
Calvert early works	Oct 2020-Summer 2021
Chetwode compound	Jan-Jun 2021
Quinton construction activities	Sep-Spring 2021
Waddesdon works	Jul 2020-Spring 2021
Steeple Claydon utility works	Jul 2020-Aug 2021
Twyford - Newton Purcell early works	Oct 2020-Summer 2021

HS2 Forthcoming Works Packages submission to Buckinghamshire Council

Please note however, forecast dates are subject to slippage by contractors

Schedule 17 package	Location	Planned submission date
Little Missenden Vent Shaft Plans and Specifications and restoration agreement.	Little Missenden	May 2021
Chesham Road intervention Shaft Plans and Specifications	Chesham Road	May 2021
South Heath cutting Cottage Farm accommodation overbridge TLE/2 Footbridge Bowood Lane overbridge and highway	Bowood Lane (BC package 1)	May 2021
South Heath cutting Footpath GMI/12 overbridge and GMI/2 accommodation overbridge Leather Lane overbridge and highway realignment	South Heath (CDC package 1)	May 2021
Calvert Cutting Addison Road Overbridge IMD South Culvert IMD South Culvert IMD North Culvert Perry Hill Overbridge Portway Farm ATS West Street Overbridge Sewage Works Access Twyford East Culvert Portway Culvert	Calvert North / Steeple Claydon (AVDC Package 13b)	June 2021
SCL/8 Footbridge	Steeple Claydon	June 2021
Waddesdon Embankment Footpath WAD/3 Accommodation underbridge Needles Farm Accommodation overbridge Waddesdon North Cutting Quainton South Embankment Station Road realignment and Aylesbury link overbridge Quainton Cutting	Waddesdon to Quainton (AVDC package 10)	June 2021
Bicester Road Embankment Waddesdon South Cutting Bridleway FMA/1 overbridge A41 Bicester Road realignment and overbridge	Putlowes to Waddesdon (AVDC package 9)	July 2021

Footpath WAD/4 Accommodation overbridge		
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Key Design Elements as described in [HS2 Information Paper D1: Design Policy](#) have been subject to community engagement on design developments.

Appointment of Sir Jonathan Thompson to the HS2 Board

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/sir-jonathan-thompson-appointed-to-the-hs2-ltd-board>

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