

A REPORT ON THE MEETING BETWEEN HOPTON AND COTON PARISH COUNCIL (HPC) AND HS2 CONCERNING THE SECOND ROUND OF PETITIONS

31.1.19

HS2's opinion of Hopton - expressed at the meeting

There is a sense of community in this rural village even though many people have already moved out of Hopton and others have come into it to rent.

The type of Petition that needs to be sent to The House of Lords

You can petition about anything you want concerning HS2

The type of petition that needs to be sent to The House of Commons (HoC)

You can petition about AP2 changes

When to use your M.P.

If you want to change anything that has already been agreed e.g. a tunnel going through Hopton, your M.P. can speak up for you at the Second Reading by tabling a motion

HS2 Time-scales

1. AP2 will be ready on 8.2.19
2. The petitioning process will start on 15.2.19
3. Once HPC has submitted its Petition to the HoC then HS2 will have another meeting with Hopton Parish Council
4. At some stage, HS2 will re-assess the area for SSSI's because the area is very rural and the SSSI's will be recorded in the Environmental Statement
5. No-one knows when the Maximus development will take place in relation to HS2 so that when HS2 carries out the engineering required, it will bear the Maximus development in mind (2,000 houses) HS2 always has to plan for the worst case scenario.
6. End of 2024 / beginning of 2015 – end of Works.

AP2 changes apart from highway changes

- The Showground, Weston Road – originally the main alignment split the car park into two and so a solution has been put into place
- Solutions have also been found for the golf course at Ingestre and the Yarlett school (a change of access)
- Minor changes have been put in place as a result of petitions from individuals concerning utilities changes (B.T., Western Power, Severn Trent)
- Hopton Lane – there will now be a bridleway which will take the form of an over bridge so that people, horses and bicycles can use it to reach the rest of the village
- Footpath 6 will be diverted and will then join its original route
- There is to be a satellite compound, south of Hopton by the Weston Road. This change has involved a small land grab

Highway changes and suggestions as to how HPC should react to those changes

The changes

- There will be junction improvements between the A51, the Weston Road and Beaconside and between the A34 going north and the A51
- There will be designated construction traffic routes
- There will be major highways improvements on Marston Lane, Common Road and Beaconside because these roads are going to be used for HGV's
- There will be temporary traffic lights at the junction between the Sandon Road and Beaconside

The sort of things that HPC could ask for to mitigate these changes

- Ask for a roundabout at the junction between the Sandon Road and Beaconside (both Staffordshire County Council (SCC) Highways Department and Maximus Developments asked for a roundabout in the first round of petitions and The Planning Department at Stafford Borough Council (SBC) has always had a long term plan for a roundabout at this junction but this plan has not come to fruition yet purely for monetary reasons)
- The roundabout could be a mini-roundabout so that HGV's can go straight over it if there is no other traffic whereas other vehicles will use it as an ordinary roundabout.
- It is a bad idea to use traffic lights if there is not a lot of room.

N.B. there will be housing developments on both sides of the Sandon Road at this junction.

- The roundabout should be flat with a slight hump in the middle.
- There is a road Safety Fund that HPC could tap into in conjunction with SCC Highways
- A precedent has already been set in the form of Kings Bromley asking for and successfully obtaining a roundabout
- The A34 and the A51 should be the major construction routes because the A34 is a dual carriageway all the way up to the roundabout with the A51 which is relatively wide with the only narrow section being the section of the A51 that passes through Sandon village
- The Weston road has dips and rises making it difficult for HGV's
- The Sandon Road is already busy and that is before all the new housing has been constructed
- The easiest solution for HGV's is NOT to touch Beaconside
- As soon as an HGV encounters a hill, it slows down thus creating queues which will delay HS2 deliveries
- There are many problems associated with traffic lights:
 - a) Traffic cannot flow because it is continually having to stop when the lights are on red and this produces a queue
 - b) Traffic lights require maintenance whereas a roundabout would not

Other suggestions for the House of Commons Petition

- There will be gas works going on in the area and minor utility changes. HPC would like to request that at the same time as these works are being carried out that mains gas is made available to ALL Hopton residents.
- There are ongoing property schemes put into place by HS2 and we have evidence that some of these schemes are unsatisfactory. HPC would like extra help for some residents who are struggling either because they did not realise, at first, that HS2 was going to go through Hopton until the route was realigned and also because many of them are elderly and find it stressful to have to fill in the long and complicated application forms. Once they have had help to fill the forms in, HPC would like to see their applications accelerated so that they do not have to wait two and a half years for a conclusion – a conclusion that many have found to be unsatisfactory because they cannot agree with HS2 concerning the valuation put on their properties.
- If surrounding woodland will be affected (this needs to be checked) HPC requests that newly-created woodland becomes a series of mini-parks. We appreciate that these matters will be sorted out with landowners first, but we would like HPC's wishes to be taken into account whilst the negotiations are ongoing with local landowners.
- There will be a satellite compound south of Hopton by the Weston Road. Is this really necessary since the main compound will be just outside Great Haywood which is not very far away? This will cause further disruption to Hopton. **Start with this point.**
- There will be a stock-piling area in Hopton for top soil. This will occasion many HGV movements both to create the stock-pile and then to dismantle it when the top soil is reinstated. Does Hopton really have to put up with this considering the amount of inevitable disruption that it is already facing?
- There is going to be a Road Safety Fund that Hopton Parish Council will be able to tap into, in conjunction with SCC Highways.

N.B. At the beginning of the Hopton Petition, we must make it clear that the Petition is in response to AP2 changes.

Advice concerning the HoC Petition

- Contact Sarah Mallen of SCC Highways (already done)
- Look at the Kings Bromley Petition which is a good example
- Don't put in a Petition which features lots of different things without any detail. Listen to the other petition speeches as well as Jeremy Lefroy's because there were some very good ones.
- Look at the Marston Petition because Marston was very clear about what it wanted – "We want you to give us toilets and running water".
- Look at some of the other parish council petitions

- Couch your petition in terms like: “This is what is happening to me (A) because of (B) and that is the outcome as things stand at the moment. I would like the outcome to be (C)
- Show slides

Assurances that have already been given

- There will be NO construction traffic going through the village
- All HS2 construction traffic will be marked “HS2”
- HS2 has already given assurances to The National Farmers’ Union over matters to do with drainage and balancing pools

N.B. 1 All of the assurances that have been given so far are “informal”. Hopton Parish Council seeks to make these assurances “formal”.

N.B.2 Changes have been brought about (AP2) and some of these changes are as a result of the SCC Highways Petition and a series of assurances have been given to them. HPC needs to know what these are.

What the finished product is going to look like

- All top soil which is removed will be re-instated so that the contours of the land will be maintained
- There will be a series of cuttings with a retaining wall to stabilise them.
- There will be noise-absorbing material on both sides of the barriers.
- There will be visual planting along the top of the cuttings.
- Really tall fences will be used on the inner side of which there will be noise absorbing material and on the outside (the part that will be visible)there will be some cladding which is sympathetic to the surroundings. It will be the sort of landscaping that you see at the side of motorways.
- If the cutting is in woodland, at the sides of the cutting there will be woodland screening.
- When the Sandon Road is re-aligned, there will be a series of balancing pools related to HS2.
- Regarding Hopton Lane, vehicles will suffer a diversion but people, bikes and horses will be able to use an over-bridge which will become a bridleway.
- The new road will follow the alignment of the railway track.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Alignment	= route
AP2 changes	= all of the changes that have been made by HS2 following the first round of Petitions
HGV’s	= Heavy Goods Vehicles
Land grab	= the acquisition of a piece of land in order to carry out HS2 Works
SSSI’s	= sites of special scientific interest
Satellite compound	= a small compound. Not the main compound
To mitigate for	= to compensate for