

WHY THE HS2 PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF LORDS WAS WITHDRAWN ON 22.10.19

Hopton and Coton Parish Council withdrew the HS2 Petition on 22.10 19 because it had received a letter of assurances which satisfied all of the requests that it had put in the petition (with the exception of one request) namely:

- **an assurance that monies to be spent on the construction of a new village hall, would be made available**
- **an assurance to improve community engagement (on the part of HS2) in Hopton – this will take the form of another day of drop-in surgeries at the village hall**
- **an assurance that Hopton Pools will be surveyed by an ecological expert**
- **an assurance that “No HS2 Traffic beyond this point” will be placed at either end of Within Lane”**

The one request that was not granted was the use of a tunnel through Hopton. This was not satisfied for two reasons:

1. **All of the tunnelling options were too expensive. (In its petition, Hopton Parish Council asked for the 5.6-kilometre long-bore tunnel because, as a result of a paper produced by HS2 called “Tunnel alternatives summary report”, it was realised that the long-bore tunnel would involve the least environmental damage to Hopton in the long term).**
2. **The ONLY constraint that HS2 put on the House of Lords Petitions was that they would not be able to satisfy any request which involved an increased land-take. Any kind of tunnel through Hopton would require an additional land-take.**

N.B.1 In spite of being told on many occasions that HS2 would NOT be able to give Hopton a tunnel, the parish council put this request in, in the pole position of its first request, because the parish council realises how important a tunnel would be to the residents of Hopton. Our number 2 request was for monies towards a new village hall and it was couched in terms like: “If we cannot have a tunnel, then we want something really big to compensate Hopton” (Please see our House of Lords Petition for the exact wording).

N.B. 2 HS2 told us that if we did not withdraw our petition, there would be a very strong chance that would get neither the tunnel nor the monies for the village hall.

Sylvia Gibson

Clerk