

## HS2 Report for RRA January 2019

A report on HS2 activities for last month.

### 1 BREAKSPEAR ROAD SOUTH

The planned 8 week closure on Breakspear Road South (BRS) has slipped again. HS2 are not completely clear till when. In a recent meeting HS2 stated it will start on 24 May, but other HS2 people say it may be June or July time.

They also expect to close BRS again in 2020 or 2021 to lower the road under the HS2 line.

### 2 POWER SUPPLY FROM RAYNERS LANE (TBM PS)

HS2 stated that LBH (Hillingdon Council) had agreed to the road route from Rayners Lane to West Ruislip. LBH needless to say have a slightly different view. They have said that if the route has to go by road then they have agreed the least damaging route. However they are still pursuing TFL to use the rail route and will not approve HS2's plans as they stand.

Test borings along the route are likely to start in the next few months. They are expected to involve single lane road closures, which could be at the same time as the BRS closure. We have expressed in the strongest terms that any closure of a main road (like Ickenham High Road), at the same time as BRS, would be disastrous. We will be taking this up with the approvals people at LBH.

Main work on this cable route is currently expected to start Q3 2019 and will last around a year.

### 3 SWAKELEYS ROUNDABOUT REDESIGN

No major update. LBH have not given approval for the rework of Swakeleys roundabout but have requested more information on wider local traffic impacts. They have suggested that the proposed pedestrian and cycling improvements be pursued as a separate matter.

### 4 WEST RUISLIP

The building of the new junction onto the high road has slipped again, now expected to start late in February. This is expected to result in closure of the footpath and diversion of the cycle lane, but not impact the main carriageway.

Tree and vegetation clearance has started, and is expected in time to involve the clearance of all trees along the Chiltern line boundary.

A useful meeting was held with the contractors doing the work who explained their plans for re-use of as much usable material as possible. However the works have not started well as they are cutting trees into logs that are too short to be used as planks.

HS2 have asked for contacts into any organisations or people who could make use of wood; for example conservation and management organisations, local artists using wood etc. They have agreed provisionally to provide wood chippings to help re-generate the Celandine route locally, and other paths. They are looking into the logistics of that.

### 5 COLNE VALLEY VIADUCT

Work on doing large test pilings is due to start in CVV area (Colne Valley Viaduct) soon. These will involve drilling test holes 70 – 80 m deep at Harvil Road and potentially Moorhall Road. These will go through the water aquifer that supplies our drinking water. The contractor we spoke to did seem very knowledgeable about this process and how they will avoid any significant pollution of the supplies during the work. However we do remain concerned about the potential for long term impacts and have asked for more details of how the water supply will be protected or replaced if damage occurs.

This work is likely to need a lot of lorry movements – up to 300 per day starting in March. The contractor currently only has permission for 24 per day. Details of all lorry movement plans have been requested.

The work also proposes setting up compounds that will remain in place till they are needed for construction work in later years. We are challenging this.

The next CVV public event is expected to be in March or April, when the latest designs will be shown. We know from LBH that the timescale for this has also been slipping.

## **6 OTHER ISSUES**

### **6.1 Main construction**

HS2 say that main construction is still expected to start on 1<sup>st</sup> June. However I find this difficult to believe since so many of their current tasks are slipping including the design of the viaduct. Or there may be a cosmetic start, so they can announce it, but keep slipping.

### **6.2 Security vehicles**

HS2 are still investigating what data they can share with LBH about what their security patrols are getting up to.

### **6.3 Mud on roads**

HS2 has responded verbally about the mud on BRS and said all contractors have been reminded of their responsibilities to keep mud off our roads. I have asked for a formal written answer.

### **6.4 HOAC**

HOAC (Hillingdon Outdoor Activity Centre) have stated that they plan to remain on their current site and operating as normal until the end of August 2019. From September 2019 they will still be operating as normal but HS2 will be starting to set up on and around site. This won't affect any activities but will affect the visual aspect of the HOAC site. From November 2019 they won't be running any mid-week group activity. Weekend opening will carry on as usual until they decide to start operating on the new site. From April 2020 they will be operating on the new Denham Quarry Site.

## **7 WORKSITE SCREENING**

HS2 are still resisting screening their worksites on Harvil Road and we are continuing to press for a better approach throughout the borough.

## **8 MEETINGS**

### **8.1 Liaison meetings**

I had one meeting with HS2 last month; with representatives of other local groups. There is traffic liaison meeting with LBH planned after this report is distributed.

### **8.2 Drop in sessions**

HS2 are running a number of drop-in sessions with HS2 and contractor staff as follows:

February

Monday 4, Ickenham library, 2pm to 5pm

Friday 15, Harefield library, 2pm to 5pm

Monday 25, Ruislip Manor library, 4pm to 7pm

March

Monday 4, Ickenham library, 2pm to 5pm

Friday 15, Harefield library, 2pm to 5pm

Tuesday 26, Ruislip Manor, 2pm to 5pm

April

Thursday 4, Ickenham library, 4pm to 7pm  
Friday 12, Harefield library, 2pm to 5pm  
Tuesday 23, Ruislip Manor library, 2pm to 5pm  
Monday 29, Ickenham library, 2pm to 5pm

## **9 COMPLAINTS AND ENQUIRIES**

I would encourage people to contact the HS2 helpline. They are slowly getting better (although still not up to where they should be) and if they don't get comments and complaints then HS2 seem to assume everything is ok with the local residents.

In particular, if you see something wrong, please do make a formal complaint.

Enquiries: [HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk](mailto:HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk), 24 hour help desk 08081 434 434

Complaints: [HS2Complaints@hs2.org.uk](mailto:HS2Complaints@hs2.org.uk)

Phil Taylor + other local activists.

4 February 2019