

HS2 Report for RRA April 2019

There is a lot of activity happening on a daily basis behind the scenes, these are the main HS2 activities for last month.

1 CONSTRUCTION TIMESCALE

HS2 have admitted their “notice to proceed” will be delayed until “towards the end of the year”. This is the formal permission they require to start main construction works. They have failed to receive permission as the three main tests have not been met. The tests relate to the robustness of HS2’s business case, the completion of the design for the whole line and the fitness of HS2 Ltd to deliver the project.

However they have stated that they are going to get round it in the short term by reclassifying some main works as enabling works, and continue regardless. Interesting that under the act they can do this.

2 OBJECTION LETTER

I have provisionally agreed with other local organisations (Harefield Tenants and Residents Association, Ickenham Residents Association and Eastcote Residents Association) that we should produce a joint letter to both LBH and HS2 requesting that all enabling works be stopped as soon as is practical until notice to proceed is granted. This is particularly urgent for some of the most damaging plans such as further vegetation clearance (aka tree felling) and the tunnel boring machine power supply works.

3 SPOIL DUMPING

No further information.

4 BREAKSPEAR ROAD SOUTH

HS2 stated that they would still like to go ahead with the 8 week closure on Breakspear Road South (BRS) starting on 24th May as to delay it until the summer holidays would “cost too much contractually”.

They did admit that they are highly unlikely to get permission to do this and the start would be delayed. I am attending a traffic liaison meeting this week where I expect we, and LBH, will put further pressure on HS2 to delay at least until the end of exams.

5 HARVIL ROAD

Harvil road was supposed to be closed last weekend but got postponed due to protestors. Another date is to be set.

6 POWER SUPPLY FROM RAYNERS LANE (TBM PS)

HS2 are pressing forward with the road route. LBH have had formal notification from TFL that the railway line route is not possible.

HS2 say that test borings along the route are likely to start in the next few months with main work expected to start Q3 2019 and will last around a year.

This is one of the actions I want to ask formally to be delayed (see objection letter above).

7 WEST RUISLIP

Site building is continuing. I have asked about their plans for further vegetation clearance – still waiting for a reply. Again I want to ask for this to be stopped.

8 COLNE VALLEY VIADUCT

I have seen the drafts of what is proposed for the CVV design. Public consultations have been provisionally arranged; the 2 local ones being:

Friday 31st May – Ickenham 16.00 – 20.00

Thursday 6th June – Ruislip 16.00 – 20.00

More details to follow soon.

9 OTHER ISSUES

9.1 Mud on roads and damage to verges

BRS problems still being investigated.

9.2 Works forward look

The scheduled works for the next 3 months should be posted soon at:

<https://hs2inhillingdon.commonplace.is/schemes/proposals/construction-forward-look/details>

10 MEETINGS

10.1 Liaison meetings

I had one meeting with HS2 last month with representatives of local residents' organisations. There is a traffic liaison meeting with LBH later this week.

10.2 Drop in sessions

HS2 are planning more drop in sessions, times to be advised.

11 NEW PETITION

There is a new petition asking for enabling works to be halted. See:

<https://petitionparliament.uk/petitions/255413>

12 COMPLAINTS AND ENQUIRIES

I would encourage people to contact the HS2 helpline. 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, 24 hour help desk 08081 434 434

Complaints: HS2Complaints@hs2.org.uk

Phil Taylor

30 April 2019