

HS2 Report for RRA August 2019

These are the main HS2 activities for last month.

1 CONSTRUCTION TIMESCALE

Despite the “notice to proceed” approval for main construction being delayed until December 2019, and an ongoing review into the whole project, HS2 stated in a recent meeting that “The Government (DfT) have instructed HS2 to continue with business as usual, with no change to the planned programme.”

So we are going to get much more tree clearance and other damaging works in the next few months, even though it could all get stopped.

2 WEST RUISLIP

Tarmacking the entrance to West Ruislip golf club is under way as I write this. This should reduce the dust blowing over the area.

After my repeated complaints, HS2 have undertaken to replace the diesel generator powering the porta cabins with either battery packs or hydrogen fuel cells (both locally non-polluting).

The HS2 takeover of the golf course starts on 2nd September at will last until at least 2024. They said they are taking over the whole golf course at the request of LBH.

There was a discussion about the need to close the driving range, which they said was partly due to a need to use part of it, but also at “LBH’s request”.

HS2 have accepted that the map and leaflet that was sent to residents, and is on commonplace, is clearly wrong and misleading. They have specifically said on the record that:

- They won’t be taking over the clubhouse
- Access to the footpath and fields will be maintained for pedestrians
- The fencing and security is to prevent vehicles (“travellers and fly tippers”) getting onto the course.

HS2 have taken an action to correct and republish the map.

There is a real risk that Green King will close the golf club if revenues continue to fall (they have already fallen over 20%).

3 BREAKSPEAR ROAD SOUTH

The closure programme is currently under way. Full closure will restart on 31 August. They say they are on track to complete the works by 14 September.

There is a plan to introduce a pedestrian traffic light system under the Chiltern line bridge on BRS, as a footpath has to be diverted under the bridge as part of the works.

4 HARVIL ROAD

No update on the plans to straighten Harvil road over the Chiltern line, and use skip lane as a major access point.

5 POWER SUPPLY FROM RAYNERS LANE (TBM PS)

Test borings along the route are under way with main work expected to start late 2019 and will last around a year to 18 months.

6 OTHER ISSUES

6.1 HGV illegal parking

HS2 have said they can, and will, ban drivers of hgv's who park illegally. However there is a complication in that because they are trying to use local contractors, those lorries may not actually be on HS2 business. This turned out to be the case for an hgv I reported to them recently. HS2 said they will investigate what can be done about this.

6.2 Works forward look

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

<https://hs2inhillington.commonplace.is/schemes/proposals/construction-forward-look/details>

7 MEETINGS

7.1 Liaison meetings

I had one meeting with HS2 last month. Low level issues were addressed reasonably professionally, but the decision to carry on regardless of the review is way above their pay grade. We need to continue to press our MPs and LBH on stopping the programme whilst the review is under way. We are planning further action to try to address this.

8 PUBLIC EVENTS

8.1 Information event about West Ruislip tunnel portal

HS2 are holding events to show:

- Updated tunnel portal design at West Ruislip
- The tunnel boring machine cable programme
- Archaeological works
- Construction activities

They are:

- Saturday 21 September, Harefield Community Centre, between 11am and 2pm
- Monday 23 September, The Barn Hotel, between 4pm and 7pm
- Wednesday 25 September, Ickenham United Reformed Church, between 4pm and 7pm

8.2 Drop in sessions

HS2 are planning more drop in sessions, see this link for details:

<https://hs2inhillington.commonplace.is/schemes/proposals/upcoming-local-events/details> .

9 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
29 August 2019