

## HS2 Report for RRA March 2019

A report on HS2 activities for last month.

### 1 POSSIBLE GOOD NEWS

There is very little good news on this project, but at a recent meeting with the main works contractors (SCS), it does appear that they have listened to our concerns which we have raised with them at a few meetings over the last year or so and tried to address them.

SCS are proposing a fairly significant design change which would involve moving the tunnel entrance 140m west, away from the West Ruislip railway bridge. They are also planning to use the existing rail sidings (modified a little) and not build a new railhead. The railway will also be lower at that point and they will turn the Copthall cutting into a cut and cover tunnel (or a trough).

The details are still being worked out, but the main benefits they suggest are:

- Less material to be excavated
- Reduced visual and noise impacts for people on the High Road and in the Greenway
- Reduced construction vehicles being needed on our roads (full details of hgv movements expected in next few months)
- Less time needed to undertake the main works

Of course, these benefits are what HS2 is championing; we don't know what if any downsides there are. We have asked for a meeting with LBH to get their views, and understand if there are things we are not being told.

I suspect that as they are now combining 2 works sites, that they have managed to reduce costs.

Still early days, but hopefully something positive in a hugely damaging project. When the design is resolved, SCS say they will hold some public events.

### 2 SPOIL DUMPING

The changes to the overall design, while being helpful to the community overall, will still require large volumes of spoil to be dumped on the fields between Harvil Road and Breakspear Road South. The quantities appear to be roughly the same as in the Environmental Statement and the reductions promised earlier have been discarded.

So far nothing has been done to alleviate residents' concerns about dust and pollution from Muckaway Trucks and the increased flood risk from additional runoff. This will become a major issue going forward.

### 3 PROJECT FUEL

An issue I have raised regularly is what fuels the contractors will be using as this can make a big difference to pollution. Some examples of good practice we saw at the Cadent gas works site included:

- Using hydrogen fuel cells for site lights – silent and zero local pollution
- Using hybrid vehicles wherever possible – for example on large digging equipment
- Recharging them from more efficient sound insulated low emission generators
- Using Shell GTL (Gas to Liquid) diesel, which is zero sulphur

Frankly I don't think HS2 staff understand the question or issues. But the contractors do. I spoke to SCS (main contractor) at a recent meeting, and without giving promises, that is certainly the direction they are working in. They plan to take over the current best practice equipment from the Cadent gas site when those works are over, and are looking at other uses. I will keep on the case.

## **4 BREAKSPEAR ROAD SOUTH**

It looks as though our (and LBH's) pressure to delay the planned 8 week closure on Breakspear Road South (BRS) to the summer holidays is paying off. HS2 say they need board level approval for that change, but are going down that route.

## **5 POWER SUPPLY FROM RAYNERS LANE (TBM PS)**

There is no change from last month. HS2 are pressing forward with the road route. LBH are still having discussions with TFL for the railway line route, but it doesn't sound too promising.

I have proposed a new route that avoids Ickenham High road which I am told "will be considered".

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.

## **6 SWAKELEYS ROUNDABOUT REDESIGN**

No major update. LBH (with our support) are only looking at pedestrian and cycling improvements.

## **7 WEST RUISLIP**

Site building is continuing. I have asked about their plans for further vegetation clearance – still waiting for a reply.

One very minor benefit is that when I met the contractors late last year I asked if they could put a drain in on the road, as that area is prone to flooding in heavy rain. There does appear to be a drain in the new entrance, we will wait for the next heavy rain storm to see if it is effective.

## **8 COLNE VALLEY VIADUCT**

Work on doing large test pilings is due to start in CVV area (Colne Valley Viaduct) soon. See January report.

The next CVV public event is expected to be in mid to end of May, when the latest designs will be shown. However they need to be submitted to LBH before then, and they are obviously struggling with the design.

## **9 OTHER ISSUES**

### **9.1 Main construction**

HS2 say that main construction is still expected to start on 1<sup>st</sup> June. I don't believe the main contractors believe that, as their earliest plans were July.

### **9.2 Security vehicles**

The HS2 security patrols (unmarked) have been seen in residential roads in the small hours of the morning upsetting some residents. They have promised to investigate it.

### **9.3 Mud on roads**

The mud on the road issue has got more serious. An HS2 vehicle (or vehicles) went onto the side verge / bank on BRS and caused it collapse. LBH have written formally to HS2.

### **9.4 Works forward look**

The scheduled works for the next 3 months can be found at:

<https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/commonplace-customer-files/hs2inhillindon/Hillingdon%20three%20month%20construction%20look%20ahead%20March%202019%20Final.pdf>

## **10 MEETINGS**

### **10.1 Liaison meetings**

I (with other local campaigners) had two meetings with HS2 last month; one of which was a traffic liaison meeting with LBH and one for representatives of local residents organisations.

### **10.2 Drop in sessions**

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

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

## **11 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)

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1 April 2019