

HS2 Report for RRA February 2020

These are the main HS2 activities for the last month together with a look ahead at forthcoming activities. Many of activities moving forward are the same as last month, but I have listed them here for completeness.

1 PROJECT APPROVAL

As expected, the government go ahead for phase 1 of the project was a political decision. It was disappointing but perhaps not surprising with so many vested interests involved. One criticism the Prime Minister did make was of the Community Engagement process, which is something we are trying to build on.

2 DEWS LANE OCCUPANTS

The situation with the family losing their property very soon and livelihood (business already gone) has quite frankly become appalling. HS2 are still spouting corporate waffle and it is not clear how much will there is in HS2 to get the situation resolved fairly and equitably.

3 UTILITY SURVEYS

The utility surveys through Ruislip and Ickenham will continue over the next 2 months, mainly using ground penetrating radar in order to plan for further utility diversions. The extent and scope of the eventual works should emerge from these surveys.

4 WEST RUISLIP

4.1 Main site

The main contractors are continuing to take over the site. Expect a big ramp up in work this year. Some of the main activities over the next few months are:

- Footpath U81 (which runs from the Greenway, under the Chiltern line and through the golf course) is still expected to close soon. The diversion is via the High Road.
- Work on the Chiltern line siding is due to continue until April.
- Hoarding (of various types) to be erected around the whole site.
- Increasing number of hgv movements can be expected as materials and equipment are bought onto site.
- The site will expand hugely over the next year.

The tunnel portal will start 200m west of the bridge at West Ruislip. It is not yet clear if any major works will be required to the bridge at West Ruislip.

4.2 Mud on road

We had significant mud being dropped on the High road at West Ruislip. I had to complain twice, and it took 5 days for the message to get from the HS2 helpline to the contractors to clean the road.

The contractors have personally apologised and said it should not have happened in the first place, and that have put measures in place to prevent it happening again.

My concerns about the failures of the helpline are ongoing.

4.3 HGV movements

Some success:

It is understood that most or all of the material from the tunnel entrance excavations will be used on the Copthall green tunnel and the golf course. This is as a result of over 2 years discussion we have had with the contractors, and probably pressure on them to reduce costs. This combined, with the use of an internal haul (also said to be not possible by HS2 but agreed when we met contractors), is estimated to reduce the number hgv journeys required along the High Road and through Ickenham village by some 46,000 (forty six thousand). There will still be a lot of hgv movements, but many fewer than would have been.

The plans also show a reduction in maximum hgv movements at Swakeleys roundabout from the 550 in the act down to 420 per day.

5 BREAKSPEAR ROAD SOUTH

Repeated concerns have been raised about the works increasing the flood risk to a number of houses along BRS.

Also the road surface is continuing to degrade, which will only be made worse by HS2 traffic

6 HARVIL ROAD

Land possessions and evictions will be continuing. HS2 say their legal processes mean they are unable to give us advance notice. We have complained (again) about the lack of publicity for their pop-up drop in sessions.

7 COLNE VALLEY VIADUCT

Load test pilings for the CVV will be starting in April.

8 HAREFIELD

The main works for diverting the national grid pylon route has started. Unfortunately the plan involves the destruction of around 100 mature trees. This is being reviewed.

9 HOAC

Apart from taking possession of the HOAC area, HS2 have washed their hands of all responsibility for relocating HOAC. This is now with LBH.

A new access road will be constructed just south of Dews Lane.

10 ULTILITY SUPPLIES FOR THE TBM

10.1 Power

We were aware that it is planned to dig up the roads from Rayners Lane to West Ruislip for the TBM (Tunnel Boring Machines) power supply. This is now expected to start from April and will last around a year to 18 months.

10.2 Water – new requirement

However it has emerged that HS2 also need a new water supply to be run along Kingsend, through the White Bear roundabout and along the High Road to west Ruislip for the TBMs. The community engagement team were not even aware of this (I spotted it in the planning application submitted to LBH). I am pressing very strongly that the power and water supplies be coordinated for installation at the same time as each other along the High road. Otherwise the traffic disruption (currently planned to be 90 days) would probably double, and the cost to HS2 increase dramatically.

11 CODE OF CONSTRUCTION PRACTICE (COCP)

Adherence to the CoCP is a problem area being followed up.

12 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEYS

Archaeological surveys are currently stalled due to the bad weather. We are being offered a site visit when the weather clears up.

13 PRESSURE MEETINGS

We (the local campaigners) are trying to put pressure on HS2 to improve their community engagement from all angles. Meetings are being planned, or have happened, with:

- Boris Johnson MP
- David Simmonds MP

- Shaun Bailey - the Tory mayoral candidate
- Ray Puddifoot – Leader of the Council
- HS2 Community Engagement Directors
- HS2 Helpdesk director

14 WORKS FORWARD LOOK

The scheduled works for the next 3 months are posted at:

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

15 PUBLIC EVENTS

15.1 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> .

16 COMPLAINTS AND ENQUIRIES

We know many local residents have given up on the HS2 help desk as they have no response in the past. This is something we are chasing up formally with HS2.

However 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. Feel free to copy me in at ptaylor@altroy.co.uk.

Enquiries: HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk, 24 hour help desk 08081 434 434

Complaints: HS2Complaints@hs2.org.uk

Phil Taylor

27 February 2020