

Tricky times ahead

Despite the recent disappointing correspondence from Andrew Stephenson, MP to Rob Butler, MP following his July visit, both the Parish Council Group and the Mitigation Group are continuing to fight for the best mitigation of HS2 for Wendover and surrounding villages.

We will not give up on our aim to convince those in power that the current scheme is ill-thought-through and damaging. We have already written back to Andrew Stephenson, putting our position forward and our mitigation for noise and water back on the table. You can see these letters at our website www.whs2.org.

Traffic Appeal overturned

The Planning Inspector has concluded that the proposed lorry route from Amersham to the "Green Tunnel North Portal Compound" beside the Wendover bypass should go ahead. He notes that the peak traffic movements there could "rise to 536 Large Goods Vehicle movements per day".

At a meeting of Bucks Highways department and Councillors from other parishes, (also struggling with the effects of HS2 further down the line), they learnt that the inspectors are bending the rules to the benefit of HS2. Allegedly, Highways is being told by DfT that its powers under the Act are not as wide as they might deem, and it would appear DfT have ignored what was agreed / promised in Parliament and in doing so ignored the cumulative impacts.

The impact is expected to be congestion on the A413 and surrounding road network, including all the 'rat-runs'. but it is impossible for Highways to predict it accurately or take preventative action with the very limited information provided by HS2. Large

developments in Bucks are required to provide enough information to run a detailed traffic model and demonstrate that their work will not cause excessive disruption before planning permission is granted. It appears HS2 considers this rule does not apply to them.

If you witness poor behaviour or see a lorry in Wendover, take a picture and send to enquiries@whs2.org. We will use it to assist Rob Butler and Buckinghamshire Council in their negotiations with HS2.

Active Resistance Camp

At the time of going to press, the protestors were still holding the fort, but the disruption to travelers on the A413 is just awful, with huge delays. "Traffic Management" has been introduced on the A413 at Small Dean during the eviction of protestors from their camps, leading to a significant queue and delays northbound.

Highways informed us that this is a result of their policy to limit the size of the southbound queue so that Wendover doesn't get gridlocked. Predictably the back road to Great Missenden past Chequers and Butlers Cross got very busy too, and we can expect more of this when HS2 start to build the Small Dean viaduct.

It appears ironic to us that, as the tunnelling machines reach ever closer to Wendover, with protestors inside the tunnel fighting for us, we can't just get the tunnelling machines to continue past Wendover and all this disruption, environmental and community damage will be resolved.

Community mitigation funds

Despite many HS2 mitigation funds being available, only 157 projects have had money assigned in Bucks. There are a small number of projects being successfully received for Wendover & surrounding villages. We

encourage all groups to submit their pitches for mitigation funding. If you have ideas and suggestions that would mitigate the community impact, then get in touch (at enquiries@whs2.org) and we'll assist however we can.

Demise of Ellesborough Cottages

We understand that demolition of the cottages is now scheduled for the end of November following disconnection of the utilities. It's heartbreaking to see this starting and the scale of the cutting works is about to become much clearer to everyone.

Test Piling

The testing of the piling methods needed for the Small Dean Viaduct, which involved holes 40 metres deep has been completed. This depth will intercept the aquifer, and we eventually received answers to our Freedom of Information requests about the use of "bentonite" drilling mud and the risk of pollution downstream of the Canal and Weston Turville Nature Reserve.

We continue to challenge the Environment Agency to ensure HS2 have carried out the appropriate risk assessments, as done for Colne Valley viaduct.

Chris Packham's Petition

Sadly, the outcome of this highly subscribed petition to reconsider HS2 altogether has not led to anything further than a good debate and a clear picture of just how much opposition there is in parliament to this scheme. Added to this, the recent attack against Chris himself only highlights the problems we have at the moment, with what feels like two different camps of people - those against climate change and those indifferent to it.

Doing what's right for Wendover

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