

HS2 Update



28 October 2016

House of Lords Select Committee

Buckinghamshire County Council appeared before the Committee on Monday 24 October to present its evidence. The Leader, Martin Tett, was the main witness with Dr Simon Newell appearing on the lack of ecological connectivity from east to west of the line. The council has been offered a further package of assurances which are currently being finalised. We shall then be notifying parish and district councils before accepting these.

Both witnesses did very well but the government gave a robust response. We shall now await the Committee's final report which will hopefully be released before Royal Assent of the Bill, around December or January. You can watch the appearances [here](#).

The latest programme of appearances from 24 October to 15 November is [here](#).

HS2 Independent Design Panel

The Panel Chair, Sadie Morgan, has appointed a vice-chair and deputies. It also has a secretariat and a governance panel and is having its first annual meeting on 22 November. See their update [here](#). It has also taken them 3 months to publish the newsletter.

In addition, the Panel has published a case study for Bridge Design Requirements which you can see [here](#). Apparently, *'one idea suggested by the panel was that the parapets could be transparent. People naturally want to see through parapets to what is across and below. Although no solution is currently on the market, the challenge from the panel was to explore that option rather than preclude it'*.

Chris Grayling, Secretary of State for Transport

Mr Grayling gave an interview to Andrew Marr last Sunday. You can view it [here](#).

HS2 Community Engagement

Cheryl Gillan MP secured an adjournment debate on 27 October in the House of Commons, on the inadequacy of HS2 Ltd's engagement to date. She questioned the independence of the Construction Commissioner and the Residents Commissioner and called for a truly independent Adjudicator. Cheryl also talked about the burden being placed on MPs and local authorities who were having to fill the engagement gap created by HS2. Cheryl also talked about their 'communication calamity' and the importance of local input. She said you cannot leave engagement to chance and that it takes time and resources.

You can watch the debate [here](#). The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport, Andrew Jones MP, responded. He said he was 'not here to make excuses for the company'. He recognised that there is a demand for information and that 'trust was easy to lose and hard to gain'.

HS2 Alerts

If you would like to be kept up to date with all the latest information on HS2 matters please contact Andrea Polden andreapolden@icloud.com who will add you to her mailing list. Andrea is a volunteer who shares daily information on HS2 matters.

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