

HS2 IMPLEMENTATION ADVISORY GROUP - 21 November 2022

MINUTES

Present: Councillors: M McCarthy, D Pinwell (Chairman), R Sleight OBE and M Wilson
Officers: James Hughes – Democratic Services Officer
Paul Tovey – Head of Highway Management
Jonathan Lord - Senior Area Engagement Manager – HS2 Ltd.
Andy De Bell - Community Engagement Manager · Balfour Beatty VINCI
Apologies: Councillors: A Burrow

1. APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from Cllr Burrow.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Bob Sleight OBE declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Director of the West Midlands Growth Company which has a relationship with HS2.

3. QUESTIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

There were no questions received and two deputation requests.

The Chairman asked the Committee if they wished to hear the deputation from Mr R Lloyd and the Committee agreed. Cllr D Howell introduced Mr Richard Lloyd's deputation. Mr Lloyd spoke about the design of the viaducts to be built in Solihull and the level of consultation that had been carried out. The Chairman reiterated that there had been a number of consultation events and that local residents' views had been taken away by HS2 with another consultation event scheduled with revised plans ahead of the final submission to Solihull Council.

The Chairman asked the Committee if they wished to hear the deputation from Cllr Ken Blanch (Hampton In Arden Parish Council) and the Committee agreed. Cllr B Sleight OBE introduced Cllr Blanch's deputation. Cllr Blanch raised concerns in relation to the close proximity of northern junction of Diddington Lane with the A452. The concerns were in relation to the Stonebridge roundabout, the expected increase in traffic when the new interchange station is opened to the north of the A45, and the design provision for a dedicated slip for A452 northbound traffic turning west on the A45 and the impact this would have on safety. Cllr Blanch also raised a query in relation to the cross section of the Blythe viaduct deck which shows a 1.2m noise barrier to the east but a 3m high barrier to the west where the village is located. The main noise source for trains is the wheel/rail interface and the 1.2m high barriers were deemed sufficient on HS1 even with buildings nearby. Residents expect to hear some noise from a train and also prefer to see it rather than have it hidden, and he welcomed comment from the Committee. The Chairman replied informing Cllr Blanch that the concerns with the Diddington Lane junction would hopefully be picked up in the Highways update and that he would ask HS2 to come back in writing relating to the design of the Blythe Viaduct as it was a technical question.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19th July were approved as an accurate record.

5. MAIN PROGRAMME UPDATE

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Jonathan Lord (HS2) and Andy De Bell (Balfour Beatty Vinci) presented the Main Programme Update as set out on the agenda pack. Members agreed that the flyover video was a useful addition to the update, BBV explained they use the strategic road network and public roads to access their compounds and haul routes endeavouring to minimise the use of public roads, BBV continually monitor their usage of public roads to maintain compliance, the exploration of glass panelling at the Balsall Common viaduct and the closure of public footpaths. Jonathan and Andy answered queries to the satisfaction of the Committee.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the Main Programme Update.

6. SMBC HIGHWAYS VERBAL UPDATE

The Head of Highway Management presented their verbal update to members which included plans for a 24/7 closure of the A452 (Southbound) by Melbicks for three weeks from the 28th November, various overnight closures for works across the borough as well as an offer to meet with Hampton In Arden Parish Council and Cllr Bob Sleight OBE to discuss Diddington Lane further. They updated the Committee on the one.network having been updated with footpath closures and concluded with an update on the Road Safety Fund monies.

RESOLVED:

The committee noted the Verbal Update from SMBC Highways.

7. KEY ISSUES TRACKER

The Chairman advised the Committee that items 1,4 and 7 on the tracker had been dealt with in the meeting, that there was a meeting due to take place on Thursday 24th November relating to item 2 and that there were no actions to follow up on all the remaining items.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the Key Issues Tracker.

Meeting concluded at 7.19 pm