

Dear Parish Council,

This brief note is to give you a general update on High Speed 2 (HS2) from a Leicestershire perspective, as a number of significant events have taken place in relation to the government's high speed rail project (HS2). For ease of reference, I have added a 'Timeline of Events' with links to internet pages, where relevant, at the end of this note.

At a national level, on 11 February 2020, the Prime Minister announced that HS2 would go ahead in full. On the same day, the Oakervee Review was published. Just over a week later, M.P. Andrew Stephenson was announced as Minister of State for High Speed Rail (along with being minister for Northern Powerhouse Rail and the Trans Pennine route upgrade). Subsequently, on 15 April 2020, the Government announced 'Notice to proceed' for the new section of HS2 from London to Birmingham (HS2 Phase 1). This notice to proceed effectively contractually committed government monies to build this section of line.

At a regional level, the Government announced the intention to draw up an 'Integrated Rail Plan' (known as the IRP) for the North and Midlands. The Government set out how this IRP will inform the HS2 Phase 2b 'Eastern Leg' final configuration. This eastern leg is the section from Birmingham to Leeds, that passes through Leicestershire. The National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) have been tasked to draft the IRP. On 26 March 2020, the NIC announced a 'call for evidence' to assist them writing the plan. The deadline for submitting evidence was 29 May 2020, though it is understood that the NIC still remain open to receiving evidence. It is also understood that an interim IRP report may be published and comments invited in July 2020. The final IRP is expected to be with central Government in November 2020, though it may be a number of months after that before the Government make further announcements based on this plan.

At a local level, a joint Leicestershire County Council and Leicester City Council response to the NIC 'call for evidence', was submitted, in line with previous joint work on the respective authorities' rail strategy and growth plans. This response did not comment on the detail of the HS2 route through Leicestershire and focused on existing local policy evidence. The response seeks to maximise the wider economic benefits connecting the Midland Main Line to the High Speed line at the planned HS2 Hub in Toton. It also seeks improvements to Leicester Station and full electrification of the Midland Main Line to support this connection. The joint County and City Council response is available on the County Council website: (www.leicestershire.gov.uk/HS2). NWLDC have submitted their response to the NIC 'call for evidence' which will be available on the NWLDC website for anyone to view.

With regard to the detail of HS2 impacts on communities and businesses, the work on mitigating these impacts needs to continue, even though the forward HS2 programme through Leicestershire remains unclear. However, locally we are looking at alternative ways of engaging and communicating with communities and local stakeholders over the coming weeks and months to continue the development of mitigation we will seek from the Government through the Hybrid Bill process, in line with Government guidance for COVID-19. Therefore, we are proposing the next round of workshops to run from September-November 2020 for communities in close proximity to the line.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us, using the following e-mail hs2@leics.gov.uk or COMMUNITY.FOCUS@NWLeicestershire.gov.uk. We will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible

Kind Regards

Nyasha Nyambuya, LCC Community Liaison Advisor (HS2)
&
Chris Elston, NWLDC Lead Officer (HS2)

Timeline of events (with links to web pages where relevant)

- 28 January 2020 Parish Information Event, NWL District Council Offices,
- 30 January 2020 Parish Information Events, Measham Leisure centre
- 4 February 2020 Parish Information event, Castle Donnington Community Hub
- 11 February 2020 Prime Minister Boris Johnson announces HS2 will go ahead. <https://parliamentlive.tv/event/index/61828604-7403-4c31-a36f-61b9fdb1fd86?in=12:31:30&out=12:45:15>
- 11 February 2020 [The Oakervee Review](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/oakervee-review-of-hs2) is published (see conclusion 11 and 12, page 52 for Leicestershire relevant details)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/oakervee-review-of-hs2>
- 19 February 2020 GOV.UK: Andrew Stephenson MP was appointed Minister of State at the Department for Transport on 13 February 2020
<https://www.gov.uk/government/people/andrew-stephenson>
- 23 March 2020 Government announces UK coronavirus lockdown measures
<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-address-to-the-nation-on-coronavirus-23-march-2020>
- 26 March 2020 National Infrastructure Commission announces 'call for evidence' to the rail needs assessment for the midlands and the north
<https://www.localgov.co.uk/NIC-launches-future-of-rail-consultation-/50254>
- 6 April 2020 LCC & NWL Councils Write to NWL Parishes, Twycross and Sheepy Parish Council to inform of that all face to face engagement and meetings have been put on hold until further notice in line with Government guidance on COVID-19. Alternative methods of engagement being sort.

15 April 2020	GOV.UK: UK Government confirms 'Notice to proceed' on High Speed 2 phase 1 https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-provides-construction-sector-certainty-by-confirming-notice-to-proceed-on-high-speed-2
29 May 2020	Formal closing date for evidence submissions to the IRP call.
24 June 2020	HS2 Ltd Webinar ; Top tips on bidding for work on the HS2 project www.hs2.org.uk/events/work-with-us-wednesdays/
1 July 2020	HS2 Ltd Webinar ; An introduction to CompeteFor – HS2’s business brokerage platform www.hs2.org.uk/events/work-with-us-wednesdays/
8 July 2020	HS2 Ltd Webinar ; Upskill with Supply Chain Sustainability School www.hs2.org.uk/events/work-with-us-wednesdays/
15 July 2020	HS2 Ltd Webinar ; Understand why communities are important www.hs2.org.uk/events/work-with-us-wednesdays/
22 July 2020	HS2 Ltd Webinar; Understand health & safety commitments www.hs2.org.uk/events/work-with-us-wednesdays/
29 July 2020	HS2 Ltd Webinar Understand environmental commitments www.hs2.org.uk/events/work-with-us-wednesdays/
5 August 2020	HS2 Ltd Webinar; Understand equality, diversity & inclusion (EDI) commitments www.hs2.org.uk/events/work-with-us-wednesdays/
12 August 2020	HS2 Ltd Webinar; Understand skills, education and employment commitments www.hs2.org.uk/events/work-with-us-wednesdays/



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