


<b>STOKE MANDEVILLE PARISH COUNCIL</b>	
MEETING DATE	19 <sup>th</sup> May 2020
PRESENTER	Graham Stewart
SUBJECT	HS2
PURPOSE	For discussion and agreement



## **Introduction**

There are four sections to what follows, but all have one thing in common – the need for SMPC to engage with, and feedback to, third parties on the topic of HS2.

When I gave an update on HS2 in February, there were comments expressed that as a parish council, we needed to reconsider our approach, policies and resources.

I would welcome your views on that, both so I can respond with clarity to those third parties, and so we have agreement on how future HS2 issues are to be managed.

### **1. Meeting with Rob Butler MP**

Jenny Hunt and I took up an invite from Rob to meet him on 21<sup>st</sup> February at his offices in town. We discussed only HS2 matters and set out our concerns. He clarified a few points, made notes of what we said, and asked that we set out our main concerns in writing for him.

Although events shortly afterwards overtook us, I have still not responded, given the views expressed within the PC.

*But I should – what would you like me to say?*

### **2. Meeting at Coldharbour PC**

On 12<sup>th</sup> March, I attended a meeting at Coldharbour PC which was effectively hosting a presentation by a hydrogeologist engaged by Wendover HS2 / Wendover PC. As well as those groups turning out in force, the MP's aide was also present. The speaker gave dire warnings about the effect on the water courses running north from Wendover into Stoke Mandeville and Aylesbury, were the Wendover Tunnel not moved closer to Stoke Mandeville.

I rather spoilt the party by being the only person present not to say I agreed to the change, and we have since been asked why that is the case.

Jenny has supplied me with the historic details – in summary the impact on the southern part of Stoke Mandeville, plus no business case, funding etc.

*Are you happy for me to respond with these? As a parish council, do we still object?*

### **3. HS2 – Vernon Loo**

Vernon, as you may know, is the community engagement manager for HS2 Ltd and has sent a couple of emails in recent weeks regarding their current plans. I think I forwarded his note around the work being done now at the old church site.

I went back to him to say that I had concerns around the lack of warning, health and safety, and social distancing, as well as the environmental aspects of the work being done. No reply has yet been received, but this is a good example of a situation where I have replied off my own bat without coming back to you as a group.

*Are you happy I did that, and if not, how do we address issues where waiting for the next PC meeting means we 'miss the boat'?*

#### 4. Eiffage-Kier

We have received an email from David Griffiths-Allen, who is the new engagement lead of the above, the lead contractors for the initial build of our section of the line. He is looking for a virtual meeting with parish councillors by way of providing an update on their intended plan of work for the rest of 2020, with the opportunity to raise concerns and issues. I have sent a holding reply to him.

*Who (if not all of us) should attend that, when should it be, and what do we wish to raise?*

Then more generally, I mentioned earlier the need to manage HS2 issues as they arise. As many of you will know, there is a small group, rather born from the ashes of the now dormant SMAG HS2 group, which includes both Jenny and me, together with some members of the public.

*What should be the relationship of that group to the parish council and what (if any) authority does it have?*

Graham Stewart

13/05/2020