


| STOKE MANDEVILLE PARISH COUNCIL | |
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| MEETING DATE | 16 th February 2021 |
| PRESENTER | Graham Stewart |
| SUBJECT | HS2 – liaison with other parishes |
| PURPOSE | For discussion and agreement |



On Monday 1st February, I attended a meeting with the chairs of Coldharbour, Wendover and Aylesbury town/parish councils. The meeting was arranged by the Wendover HS2 group. They had already met with the three parishes to their south and wanted to meet with the three to the north – the aim being to share information on key HS2 topics and discuss working together.

The Wendover group has renamed itself ‘Wendover HS2 Mitigation Action Group’. They are very well resourced (at least three people working full time on HS2 matters), have experts on key topics in their group, and have close links with their parish council and people of influence such as the local MP. The slides and information they were able to present were far above anything the rest of us could have produced. I will confess that I felt very far behind the curve by comparison.

What they haven’t managed so far is to have the influence perhaps they hoped with either HS2 itself or with Bucks Council. Hence they wanted to get a string of parishes on board to be able to speak with a louder voice, plus some of the things they are working on impact other areas.

The key things I took away were:

Noise – they think HS2’s noise predictions are inaccurate, and many more houses will be impacted. I’ve asked if we could have access to their noise maps.

Hydrogeology – HS2 have admitted that their work will have an impact on the Coombe Hill aquifer, which in turn impacts Stoke Brook and all the way into Aylesbury. But their impact assessment hasn’t looked beyond a very limited area next to Wendover and it suggests the impact is a tenth that found by Wendover HS2. The aim is to get an independent assessment or get the Environment Agency involved, as HS2 are not interested in further mitigation.

Traffic – we haven’t been too impacted by traffic yet, but others have. The talk is that lorries would be coming up the A413 from Amersham to Stoke Mandeville, either via Terrick or Station Road. Neither sounds good. I think we should try to get some traffic maps. Coldharbour have had lots of complaints from residents about lorries coming to the Oxford Road sites and the number of movements seems far more than estimated. The aim of building a temporary road south from Fleet Marston to the construction sites is fading due to the ground being a massive flood plain – hence all the construction traffic would need to enter Aylesbury itself.

Next steps

I strongly recommend that we join in with the six other parishes. Although we have occasional meetings with HS2, which should continue, I don’t think we have enough resources or influence to make a difference if we operate alone.

That doesn’t mean we will always agree with everything proposed.

Graham Stewart

02/02/2021