



2nd Floor
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU
Tel: 020 7944 4908

3 February 2012

Dear Sir/Madam,

Justine Greening, the Transport Secretary has confirmed that the Government is going ahead with plans for a high speed rail network (High Speed 2).

On 11th January I wrote to the Local Authority Chief Executive outlining HS2 Ltd's plans for engaging with local communities along the route in our next stage of work.

Our first task will be to develop the engineering and design of the route and carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment in preparation for a Hybrid bill. We want to work closely with parish councils, communities, local authorities and organisations to develop the design in a way which will minimise potential impacts and identify opportunities for local communities to benefit from the project.

Community forums

As one way of having effective dialogue with local communities we are establishing community forums along the route from London to the West Midlands. In the first instance, we suggest 23 forums linking communities that share similar issues. Please see attached map for details of all the community forums. At the initial set-up meetings, we'd like to discuss these divisions with you and what would work best in your local area.

In the first instance, we would like to invite a suitable representative from your organisation to work with us within the **Offchurch, Cubbington and Stoneleigh** community forum.

At this stage we see core membership including:-

Local Authority officer: **Warwickshire County Council**

District officer: **Warwick District Council**

Parish council representative: **Cubbington Parish Council, Offchurch Parish Council, Stoneleigh Parish Council, Weston under Wetherley Parish Council**

Local groups such as Residents Associations and Action Groups

HS2 Ltd



We want these groups to be community led, with HS2 Ltd in an advisory role and therefore invite Warwick District Council to chair the first meeting.

We hope that representatives of the local community will work with us to:

- identify local priorities for the next stage of design
- discuss potential ways to avoid and mitigate the impacts of the route such as managing noise and reinstating highways
- explore opportunities for possible community benefits
- inform the local community about HS2 proposals and consultations

We suggest that in order to provide a good mix of views and to have effective dialogue, we aim to keep membership to approximately 20 people plus HS2 staff.

I'm sure you agree that it's important that this community forum is representative of the local area. We anticipate representatives may include in particular action groups and resident groups, plus local businesses, landowners, transport bodies, local environment/heritage groups & schools/educational facilities.

We welcome your guidance and suggestions as to who would best represent your local community. We would greatly appreciate your feedback on recommendations for membership by midday Friday 10th February if possible.

We suggest the following dates for the set-up meeting:

Tuesday 27th March or Thursday 29th March from 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Please let us know which date is most suitable for you.

In the future the community forum will agree the most appropriate date and time for the next meeting and the most appropriate venue between all the members.

We would like to hold the meetings at a locally relevant, accessible location and ask the Parish Councils for advice on this matter.

We want to set-up a collaborative approach where community concerns and priorities lead the agenda. The consultation responses in your area have given us an indication of some of the issues you may like to discuss with us. In the first meeting, we look to clarify these issues and understand any other concerns you may have, as well as establishing the terms of the forum.

We look forward to your membership suggestions. There will be a further opportunity to discuss membership at the first meeting.



Please direct your membership suggestions and any questions or comments to Sal Fulcher on sally.fulcher@hs2.gsi.gov.uk or on 0207 9440781.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison Munro', written in a cursive style.

Alison Munro
CHIEF EXECUTIVE