

REPORT TO PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL

6th April 2021

AGENDA ITEM 8.7 HS2 - MEETING WITH HS2 AND OTHER LOCAL COUNCILS

1. REPORT

- 1.1 HS2 has recently organised an online meeting of local parish and town councils to discuss aspects of the issue of HS2 construction traffic and its routeing. It was attended by Cllr Shore and your Clerk. HS2 said that this was not a consultation, but essentially notification of the stage they are at.
- 1.2 The discussion focussed primarily around construction traffic arrangements on parts of the HS2 route – e.g. near the new A556 link to the M56, where for instance HS2 are proposing to construct new temporary slip roads onto and off the A556 so as to prevent significant haul routes along narrow roads.
- 1.3 The main principles explained by HS2 were that:
 - They seek to maximise the routeing of construction traffic via major roads; they seek to minimise the use of minor roads.
 - They aim for minimum impact on local communities.
 - They will route construction traffic along the line of the railbed as much as they can, but this is obviously constrained where there are substantial bridging or engineering works not yet implemented.
 - In terms of the likely main sources of construction traffic, they have to have a flexible outlook for the present until further detail of the scheme is worked up.
- 1.4 The current intention is that much of the material that will be excavated from cuttings and other works toward the airport will be reused on embankments etc e.g. at Smoker Brook, but also further south, as far as Crewe.
- 1.5 There will be no further detail of any aspect of the HS2 proposals made available until such time as the Hybrid Bill for phase 2B is put to Parliament. This will contain full details and the related Environmental Statement. The proposed timetable remains:
 - Early 2022 Submission of Hybrid Bill to Parliament
 - 2024 Receipt of Royal Assent to the Bill
 - 2026 Main start of construction on civil engineering works
 - 2035-40 HS2b operational.
- 1.6 HS2 said that documents (the Draft Code of Construction Practice, the Management of Traffic during Construction, and an HS2 Fact Sheet explaining contractors' traffic flow assumptions) are already or will be made available with the Hybrid bill. Further information on this aspect is awaited.

1.7 HS2's notes of the meeting are awaited at the time of writing, as is a guide to the Hybrid Bill procedure. This will give an idea of the nature of the opportunity for further objections to be submitted to the scheme – in principle and in detail.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the report be noted.

J Steel

Clerk to the Parish Council