



TSS Neighbourhood Forum Management Committee
17th July 2019
HS2 Group

HS2 continues to be a controversial project in terms of its costs, budget and potential effectiveness and in the current political climate there is a great deal of uncertainty about whether it will continue to go ahead.

Last week Andrea Leadsom (Con MP) raised a debate in Parliament (held on 10th Jul 2019) about the business case for HS2 and has called for a full spending review. She said:

‘I’ve just come from my first backbench debate in 5 years, which I held on HS2. I do believe we need to seriously challenge the business case for HS2 and ensure it is good value for taxpayer money. The unacceptable way HS2 Ltd continues to treat our constituents was also raised’

But both potential Conservative leaders have said HS2 shouldn’t be abandoned although support for Northern Powerhouse rail, which is being dubbed HS3, seems to be strengthening.

Publication of consultation summary reports

Steve Lee, the HS2 Engagement Officer for our area, recently contacted our group about consultation events regarding ‘tweaks’ to the route. The changes only affect certain sections of the Phase 2b route with none affecting our immediate area, LA10, at the present time.

At the same time as ‘the design refinement consultation’ was launched, two reports were published summarising the feedback received to the working draft Environmental Statement and working draft Equality Impact Assessment Report consultations that were carried out at the end of 2018. Almost 40,000 responses to were received and HS2 are continuing to take the feedback received into consideration as the design for Phase 2b is further developed.

We have been told that further changes will be forthcoming and there will be further engagement and consultations on these before the submission of the HS2 Phase 2b hybrid Bill, expected in mid-2020.

The two reports that summarise the main themes contained in the feedback received are available via www.gov.uk/government/consultation-summary-report

The National Trust has recently published an article in its newsletter about HS2 and Hardwick Hall. They are asking for people to help to protect Hardwick by responding to the question: ‘What does Hardwick mean to you and emailing their answer to hs2@nationaltrust.org.uk

At our last meeting it was suggested that a letter/email be written to the Chief Executive of Ashfield District Council regarding our ongoing concerns about Ashfield District Council support. A draft of the proposed letter is attached and will be brought to the meeting for discussion.