



**NICK HURD MP**

Member of Parliament for Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner



## Dear constituent,

**The work goes on in Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner.**

### HS2 bulletin

I thought it would be helpful to update you on my work to protect the area from HS2

### Will it go ahead?

Given current cross party support, I have to work on the basis that HS2 will be approved in the next Parliament. However it is clear that the scale of public spending cuts in the next Parliament will be big and controversial, whoever forms the Government. Therefore it is possible that this cross party support will come under pressure.

### What is my position?

I cannot support the current proposals because of the cost to the constituency. So I will vote against HS2 unless we get the mitigation that we are petitioning for.

## **What is the right mitigation?**

The only solution that I can see is the extension of the proposed tunnel to the other side of the Colne Valley. This is not a straightforward or pain free solution but it will protect West Ruislip, Ickenham and Harefield from the worst impacts. I first made the case for this in March 2013, and am now working alongside Hillingdon Council and resident groups to prepare the case that this will be not only fairer for residents but also better for HS2 and the taxpayer.

When I first argued for this, it was dismissed as unworkable. Now we understand from an FOI request that HS2 have commissioned a feasibility study. As you will see from my recent [letter](#) to Sir David Higgins, I am pressing for more detail on when this study will be completed and public.

## **What am I doing to support as tunnel extension?**

My short term priority is to get the Government to drop old plans to connect HS2 to Heathrow by the so called Heathrow Spur. Apart from being the right thing to do, this will cut the cost and complexity of the tunnel extension we seek. Since my last bulletin, I have met with the Secretary of State for Transport and HS2 to make the case. I was joined by Sir John Randall MP and the Right Hon Dominic Grieve MP. We argued that the spur was not needed as better connections to Heathrow could be made via Cross rail and Old Oak Common. If this argument was accepted then the Government should drop the idea of the Spur now; remove blight from the area and save taxpayers around £2 billion of unnecessary expenditure. We did not hear a serious argument against our case and we will pursue it.

## **Other news**

### *HS2 Petition Committee*

It was fantastic that so many residents stepped up to petition alongside myself and

Hillingdon Council. I know that this may be a daunting prospect for some people so I am liaising with the HS2 Select Committee clerks to ensure that I can give as much advice and assistance in helping people and groups prepare for petitioning. Once we know when our area will be up in front of the Select Committee I will ensure we can get meetings with the Committee Clerks to speak to local residents.

The petitioning process is well underway, and I think people have been impressed by the empathetic and objective approach of the MPs, who are no HS2 or Government poodles. The balance of probability is that our petitions will be heard after the General Election.

I am very keen that the Committee comes to see the area and does not just rely on presentations. So I am delighted that the Chairman of the Committee has given me a personal assurance that they will organise a visit to our area as part of their process.

### *Compensation*

My argument remains that no one should be forced to suffer a financial penalty or be trapped in their property because of HS2. This was the core principle of my [response](#) to the consultation; and was cited in a recent House of Commons [debate](#) on compensation.

I have also added my support to the London Alliance, which was launched in November. The London Alliance, is a cross-party group of London MPs and councils of which I am part and aims is to secure a fair compensation and mitigation deal for London's residents and businesses affected by the construction of HS2.

They have posted an e-petition calling for a fair deal for London on the Government website. The e-petition is available to sign at <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/71100>

We expect to hear the response from Government very shortly.

## *HOAC*

If we do not win the argument for a tunnel extension, then I am determined to save the Hillingdon Outdoors Activities Centre (HOAC). I have been working for some time now with HOAC management to get HS2 to engage seriously with the need to find a relocation option in the area. An option has been identified and there is a serious process underway to explore the feasibility of it. As you can see from my letter to Sir David Higgins, I am pressing HS2 to give the assurances that HOAC will not need to close.

## *South Harefield*

Current HS2 plans involve a large electricity sub-station on the edge of South Harefield. I met with residents who are very concerned about the lack of detail on this new and permanent piece of infrastructure. As you can see from the response I got from [National Grid](#), they do not yet have answers to some of the very obvious and pertinent questions that residents have.

This is indicative of our general experience of dealing with the HS2 project over many years. I think you can sense my frustration in this [BBC London](#) interview where I describe them as “incompetent and shambolic”.

I do know from many conversations how stressful HS2 is for many residents. If you would like to meet in person to discuss or if I can help with any specific issues you face, please do not hesitate to contact me

In the meantime, may I wish you a peaceful and happy Christmas.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Hand". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

---

## Roundup of previous HS2 news



### Compensation Consultation

Back in September, HS2 concluded their latest consultation on compensation – if the project should go ahead.

I responded on behalf of constituents and my full response can be read [here](#)



### Preserving HOAC

In July, I visited HOAC with Robert Goodwill MP, Minister for Transport with responsibility for HS2. The Minister was given a tour of the site and shown the activities on offer, before having a meeting with Trustees to discuss the future of the centre.



### Crossrail visit

To gain a better understanding about the HS2 proposals for the West Ruislip tunnel portal, I visited the Crossrail tunnel portal site at Royal Victoria Dock at the beginning of July.



### Last HS2 E:Bulletin

Click [here](#) to read October's HS2 E:Bulletin

Read more [here](#)

**Our mailing address is**

[nick.hurd.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:nick.hurd.mp@parliament.uk)

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)