



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Allan Cook CBE DSc  
High Speed Two (HS2) Limited,  
1 Eversholt Street,  
London,  
NW1 2DN

3 April 2019

Our ref: NH/cy/CR

Dear Alan,

Many thanks to you; Mike Hickson OBE, Programme Director for Area Central; and Julie King, Community & Stakeholder Engagement Director, for a constructive meeting yesterday.

As you acknowledged, most of the residents in my constituency are unlikely to be persuaded of the merits of HS2, given the scale of the impact on the area and the lack of a direct benefit to them. The Hillingdon Agreement was an important step in setting out a commitment to mitigate the impact, and it is clearly in the interest of everyone that the working relationship between HS2, Hillingdon Council, and residents is as constructive and effective as possible. That relationship is not where it needs to be, not least because of widespread frustration with the community engagement that HS2 is doing. This is not a criticism of individuals, and there is a recognition that sometimes there are not yet answers to questions, but the process is not working.

We discussed a number of specific issues that are community priorities, and you undertook to have a look at how we can improve the feedback loops on these issues. You also undertook to come back to me with some reassurance on HS2's capacity, in terms of monitoring compliance with the Construction Code of Practice, and the ability to handle effectively what will be an increasing volume of complaints and enquiries about the activity of contractors.

On the specifics:

1. On Harvil Road screening, you acknowledged that the issue has been left unresolved for too long and you undertook to arrange a senior meeting with Doreen McIntyre, Chair, Harefield Tenants and Residents Association, who has raised this issue repeatedly on behalf of Harefield Residents.
2. On the SCS potential redesign, there is recognition of potential community benefits and support for working the detail through. There is a residual concern among



residents that the redesign continues to require permanent placement of large amounts of soil in quantities that are not consistent with previous commitments to try and reduce soil volumes from levels set out in the Environmental Statement. Nothing has been done yet to alleviate residents' concerns about dust and pollution from Muck-Away Trucks, and the increased flood risk from additional run-off. Residents have proposed alternative locations for the placements, which they think will deliver benefits. They would also like clarification on HS2's commitment to using low pollution vehicles and fuels, and following some of the good practice seen at the Cadent gas works. You undertook to discuss with SCS the question of an alternative location, and I hope that in following that point up, you can also address the point about pollution mitigation.

3. On the Breakspear Road South closure, your team has a good understanding of the problem and the very real difficulties caused last time. The next closure, as advised during our meeting, is currently scheduled for 8 May. I support the community in asking for a deferral to the summer holidays, and you explained that you were giving that serious consideration but that there were ongoing legal issues to resolve.

4. On the Power Supply from Rayners Lane, you have a good understanding that the proposal significantly widens the universe of residents whose lives will be disrupted by HS2, and for the need to engage very closely with residents to finalise the route and phasing. You explained to me that the HS2 view is very clear that the road route is the only practical one because of difficulties in accessing TfL infrastructure. However, I would urge you to look again at your community engagement plans to satisfy yourself and the relevant residents' associations that you are being clear and effective in your communication of why this is necessary and how it will work.

5. On Harefield Power station, you understood the need to maintain a more regular rhythm of information to Harefield Residents' Association about progress in confirming location, scale and screening plans.

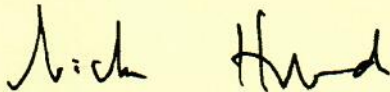
6. On the viaduct, I registered concerns about the degree to which Harefield Residents felt that they had been part of the design process. You felt that community engagement on the proposed design had been effective and the response had been broadly positive. I registered some concern about design quality being compromised by concerns of cost overruns. I felt that you were reassuring in your commitment to constructing a beautiful viaduct and I would appreciate confirmation that your plan remains to schedule public events in May, having submitted plans to Hillingdon Council.

7. On HOAC, I reported that the feedback from management on the relationship with HS2 was generally positive, but that they would appreciate clarity on the exact plan for the year in terms of your activity on the current site. I will share the specific questions with your office.

I look forward to hearing back from you on the above, and we agreed that we would schedule a regular rhythm of meetings with an appropriate member of your senior management team to take stock of progress in improving the working relationship between Hillingdon Borough and HS2.

I am copying-in The Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson MP, Member of Parliament for Uxbridge and South Ruislip, and Cllr Ray Puddifoot MBE, Leader of Hillingdon Council. I will be sharing this letter with the relevant local residents' associations, as I will your response.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Hurd". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'N' and 'H'.

The Rt. Hon. Nick Hurd MP  
**Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner**  
Tel: 020 7219 1053  
Email: [nick.hurd.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:nick.hurd.mp@parliament.uk)

CC: The Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson MP  
CC: Cllr. Ray Puddifoot MBE