

## **HS2 Phase 2b Design Refinement Consultation**

Kegworth Parish Council's response to the HS2 Phase 2b Design Refinement Consultation, as follows:

### **Placement of temporary railhead at Ashby:**

The Parish Council has serious concerns regarding the construction/restoration phases of the new railhead at Ashby, which will result in significant increases in traffic on the M42/M1. All efforts to remove HGV movements from the trunk roads should be taken, and no additional traffic on minor roads should be permitted.

The Parish Council wonders why visualisations and plan profile maps have not been produced for the Ashby railhead when they are available for all other temporary and permanent railheads. This suggests obfuscation of worrying details, such as increased traffic, material haulage, etc. When will they be available and what controversial aspects will they reveal?

### **Amendments near Trowell (Notts) which will require a short realignment of the M1:**

Any realignment of the M1 will cause considerable disruption to all routes that converge in the area, impacting a wide area of the midlands, as demonstrated with the recent conversion of a stretch of the M1 to a smart motorway. HS2 will need to be very clear about road closures and ensure that places away from the immediately affected area are also informed so that they can manage impacts locally. This could be particularly important when big events are taking place, such as racing or Download at Donington Park.

### **Agriculture, forestry and soils:**

The Parish Council restates its previous concerns given in earlier consultation responses. In addition however, we wonder where is all the spoil is going and how will it be transported sustainably?

### **Air quality:**

Our recent experience of the East Midlands Gateway build demonstrated that, despite contractors' best efforts, significant air pollution results from construction at this scale. Dust covered many parts of the village for several months; we are concerned that the HS2 impact on air quality will last for several years.

### **Community:**

There will undoubtedly be increased pressure on local housing and community services during construction. Kegworth is already at saturation point with HMOs and cannot take any more such development without significant harm to the local community. HS2 should provide accommodation for a large proportion of the 800 workers based around the three local sites.

### **Footpaths:**

The Parish Council has significant concern regarding severing leisure and commuting routes to local villages where footpaths and bridleways cross the proposed route, and the destruction of amenities such as Long Lane, which is the only safe cycle route crossing the area.

### **Ecology and biodiversity:**

We feel it absolutely necessary that County Ecologists check the whole route across the area to assess potential and ongoing damage. The Parish Council is extremely concerned that the whole environment around Kegworth is being transformed into a concrete jungle.

### **Traffic and transport:**

Will the Ashby railhead create a significant focus for construction traffic, exacerbating the problems already suffered in and around Kegworth? In addition to the previous concern re. HGVs, there will be significant numbers of small vehicle movements (staff cars, vans, etc.) that the local roads cannot cope with. The A511 and A512 are both slated for roadworks and these should not be disrupted at the same time. Access to the A42 is also important and further up, the reworked J14 is causing concerns for some of the other local parishes and additional alterations will not help.

The Parish Council requires confirmation of the construction zone and land take along the revised route to understand any impact on local properties, transport, agriculture and quality of life.