

HIGH SPEED RAILWAY (HS2)

Monday 4th February 2013

Present:-

Cllr G Smith – Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development (in the Chair)

RMBC Ward Councillors A Buckley D Lelliott J Swift and A Roddison

Catcliffe Parish Council Cllr D Hughes and Cllr A Cater

RMBC Officers : Karl Battersby and Tom Finnegan-Smith

Apologies for absence: Cllr S Ahmed and Cllr R S Russell

(1) INTRODUCTION

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

(2) HIGH SPEED 2 – HIGH SPEED RAILWAY

(BIRMINGHAM to LEEDS, via SHEFFIELD)

The meeting had been arranged to discuss information about the following issues:-

Route of the HS2 railway line

Hardship scheme (compulsory acquisition of land and property)

The process of choosing locations for the railway stations

HS2 Limited is the Company delivering the project

2032 is completion year – (nb depending upon the state of the economy, the project could happen at an earlier time).

(3) DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED ROUTE

Many locations had apparently been considered for the mainline stations. If a city centre location had been chosen for Sheffield, it would probably have been at the site of the former Victoria Station (Wicker Arches) served by a loop from the main railway line through Sheffield (ie: the one serving Meadowhall). Ultimately, however, Meadowhall has been chosen as the preferred location for the station.

The high speed line has to be as straight as possible. The published route travels near to Waverley (on a viaduct) and into a cutting underneath the Parkway and the Europa Link Road. The route travels across Catcliffe village on a viaduct above

properties. The route will cross the current location of the Wm Morrison supermarket and the Boundary Mill store. It is probable that this section of the route (including the stores' site and premises) will be acquired by compulsory purchase and the buildings demolished.

The viaduct has an average height of 8 metres above ground. No plans or drawings of the proposed structures have yet been released.

The B6533 Poplar Way road into Catcliffe will be underneath the viaduct.

The Europa Link Road will remain, with bridges crossing the proposed path/route of HS2.

The high speed rail project will have significant impact upon a potential route to the Fence roundabout for Waverley Link Road, which could have served as an alternative alignment for the Waverley Link Road to the route through the Woodhouse Mill Recreation Ground. The Borough Council has just begun to consider the implications of that impact.

HM Government has announced the preferred route and it is very difficult for anyone to object to the proposal.

HM Government and HS Limited consultation and engagement with the public will begin during the Summer, 2013 — public meetings and exhibitions will be arranged and HS2 Limited will be seeking views on suitable venues and locations (the Catcliffe Memorial Hall was suggested as a possible venue).

Plans will be provided for Area Assemblies and Parish Councils.

The construction project will be significant in terms of job creation, given the scale of development and the length of time of construction works. Construction may begin during the early part of the 2020 decade, but perhaps might be earlier. There is not yet any detail about where the construction works would begin (eg: either at Birmingham, Leeds or at Manchester).

(4) MEADOWHALL RAILWAY STATION

A large viaduct is to be constructed near to the M1 motorway and the existing Tinsley viaduct. The impact upon the community of Blackburn needs to be considered but at this location the M1 is between the HS2 railway line and Blackburn. The new railway station will be constructed underneath the line of HS2 and some amendments to the existing transport interchange at Meadowhall are proposed. The existing line of the Supertram will have to be amended slightly.

(5) HARDSHIP SCHEME

HS2 Limited is also consulting on the “exceptional hardship” scheme for people whose properties will be blighted by the development. The scheme has its financial and geographical limits. There will probably be significant impact on The Crofts, the Borough Council-owned bungalows within Catcliffe. RMBC officers from the Land and Property Team are reviewing the proposals and will formulate a response to the consultation.

(6) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

HS2 Limited will undertake this assessment, because of the flooding potential of land surrounding the railway route, which will cross the flood plain at Catcliffe and elsewhere.

Noise and air quality issues will be examined during the assessment, as well as the biodiversity and ecology of the area.

(7) AGREED ACTION

The following courses of action were agreed:-

- (a) The Borough Council will provide information (including copies of the route plans) to the Parish Councils, at regular intervals, about the progress of the scheme and Parishes will use that information to keep the public informed locally.
- (b) To note that HS2 Limited will be writing to all individual households affected by the route.
- (c) There will be dialogue with the RMBC Housing Department about the impact of the construction works upon local Council housing.

(8) CLOSURE OF MEETING

Councillor Smith thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.