

Nick Hurd MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Your ref: NH/rg

5 October 2017

Dear Nick

Thank you for raising your constituents' concerns in your letter to me of 12 September 2017. I want to assure you and your constituents that we also are eager to be able to provide meaningful answers to their questions.

As the project enters into the next phase and our Main Works Civils Contractor (MWCC) progresses the design, this information will increasingly become available. My team and I will then provide the information where we can and give a full explanation where we cannot. The MWCC were appointed in late July this year and are currently in a period of mobilisation. This will be followed by a sixteen month period of detailed design.

As you recognise, arranging for the MWCC to meet with the communities in Ickenham and Harefield is a priority, as is ensuring this meeting is productive. With that in mind, following discussions with the Harefield Tenants and Residents' Association on 21 September, it was agreed that a meeting would take place between the residents in Harefield and the MWCC in November. We will let your office have the date once it is arranged.

Similarly, a meeting has been arranged with the Ickenham Residents' Association on 24 October. These meeting will provide an opportunity for the Associations to share their key concerns with us in the early stages of design. As the design work continues to progress, our MWCC will also attend and update the community at subsequent meetings. Furthermore, when the design has been completed to an appropriate level of certainty, we will hold events in Harefield and Ickenham to present the proposals to the wider community.

With regard to the specific concerns in Harefield, as I have mentioned the MWCC will be conducting a sixteen month period of detailed design. This will involve reviewing the hybrid Bill design of the new railway including the Colne Valley viaduct and the specimen design mitigation.

As details of the scheme, including the specimen design mitigation, become available we will share this information with the community in Harefield. The Colne Valley viaduct is considered a 'key design element' and as such we'll look to engage the community in the vicinity of the viaduct, potentially by way of workshops. The outputs of these could then help inform the design.

High Speed Two (HS2) Limited
T: 020 7944 4908 E: hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk www.hs2.org.uk

High Speed Two (HS2) Limited, registered in England and Wales.
Registered office: Two Snowhill, Snow Hill Queensway, Birmingham B4 6GA. Company registration number: 06791686. VAT registration number: 181 4312 30

At the meeting attended between my team and the Harefield Tenants and Residents' Association on 21 September, the issue of screening the Grid Supply Point during the construction was further brought to our attention. We understand the concerns of the residents on this issue and are exploring the options available to provide further screening in this area during construction.

My team and I are working hard to continue to improve communications with the community and are always happy to hear their feedback on how we are doing. One challenge we have faced is providing digital notifications for local works while working within the constraints of the .gov.uk website. This is something we received feedback on during the recent works off Harvil Road. With this in mind we are looking at digital solutions that could better meet the needs of the community than what we currently have at our disposal.

My team are in the process of drafting Local Area Plans that detail how we look to undertake engagement going forward. There will be a draft plan for Hillingdon and the intention is for this and the other area plans across the line of route to be tailored to the specific need of their communities. The next step will be to sit down with the local authority and communities to share the draft plans and invite feedback on them before they are finalised.

Finally, we have recently sent you our HS2 Community Engagement Strategy. I hope that you will read this with interest and it will demonstrate to you our overarching approach.

I do hope that this response is able to provide some reassurance on the concerns you have conveyed. I am happy for you to share it with your constituents.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John Parrott', written in a cursive style.

John Parrott
Head of Community Engagement – Area South
High Speed Two (HS2) Limited