

HS2 and Measham

Response by Measham Parish Council to the Working Draft Equality Impact Assessment – December 2018



Measham Parish Boundary

Introduction

HS2 route 2b, area 2, LA03 passes through the West of the Parish of Measham and in conclusion to the information provided within the Working Draft Equality Impact Assessment will have a significant impact in the village in particular to those in ill health, school children and elderly residents all who live, work, visit and use the amenities and facilities within the parish. On the information provided, the Parish Council wish to raise the following points.

There isn't much information in the Draft Equality Assessment, the parish council hope HS2 will be engaging much more with communities before the formal Environmental Statement is submitted to Parliament.

Housing

There will be loss of housing on Amersham Way although some properties are already empty. Though there is no loss of housing on Dysons Close there will be major impact of both operational and construction noise to the properties on the edge of Dysons Close which are mainly inhabited by elderly people, because they are elderly and vulnerable, it could be quite challenging to move them out temporarily into suitable alternative accommodation.

Schools and educational facilities

These facilities are well removed from the construction area and therefore there will be no loss of facilities or services, or any visual and landscape impact or operational or construction noise to either of the schools.

However, there are many children from Measham who attend Oakthorpe Primary and Nursery schools who will be affected by road closures during the construction period.

Places of worship

None of the places of worship will be effected either by operational or construction noise or loss of facilities and services. Road closures will impact those attending services, weddings, funerals etc from other towns and villages.

Community and cultural centres

There will be no loss of facilities or services, other than the inconvenience of road closures to the village during construction for surrounding villages to access community services such as the Library.

Health and social care centres

There should be no loss of facilities and services, but again during road closures there will be the inconvenience for neighbouring villages to access Measham Medical Unit, Dentist and Optician. The Parish Council are aware that the doctors and medical team at Measham Medical Unit, of which there are over 80 employed full and part time would suffer getting to work if roads were closed. No Doctors live in Measham and the majority of other staff have to travel by car to work. Doctors and nurses doing daily home visits may also be impacted too.

Emergency services

There should be no loss, but it would be prudent to make all the Emergency Services aware of any imminent road closures when construction is taking place, as otherwise there could be dire consequences and a risk of loss of life.

Recreational facilities

The Leisure Centre – although there will be no actual loss of facilities and services, construction noise and air pollution could affect the outside football pitches and some activities when in use. As the Wharf site will be blighted, the loss of £500K Section 106 monies will be felt as it was hoped to double the size of the gym to accommodate more people, with the increase in social prescribing this is vital for the centre, village and surrounding catchment area. The Leisure Centre is considered a community centre and is a well-used facility for all age groups, ranging from a creche to seated keep fit for the elderly. There are many fitness classes during the day and evening seven days a week along with the GP referral scheme from the neighbouring Medical Unit. The centre caters for eight youth football teams that use both the 3G pitch and both the two grass pitches along with a walking football team as part of the aforementioned social prescribing. The centre is also used as a venue for parties, funeral wakes and weddings.

There are other recreational centres that will not be affected – the Youth Centre, Village Hall, Church Hall, and Age UK.

Gypsy and Traveller sites

There is a Showman's site close to the village but should not be affected.

Open spaces

The open spaces affected will be the green fields HS2 will take up, some fields are used by the Medical Unit Walking Group who also fall under the social prescribing umbrella. Other users include dog walkers and joggers who will be impacted during construction. Once construction is completed, the green fields not needed for operation should be used for tree planting and possibly community orchards. These fields should not be lost to the villages as their recreational and health benefits are invaluable.

Businesses and employment

Whilst there is much impact to business and employment by the construction and operation to HS2, there should be no EI impact on local businesses other than delays during road closures for construction and for employment access from outside the village. It is hoped there may be construction employment for local people and that construction workers will use the village shops and businesses.

Traffic, transport and physical accessibility

As previously mentioned in other headings, we ask for minimal affectation with road closures particularly to the community and the neighbouring villages who have direct contact with Measham for health and welfare means and access to the shops and bus services. The roads impacted most are Burton Road for access to Oakthorpe, Acresford and Netherseal, and the other being New Street, accessing Oakthorpe all these villages which are in the catchment area for the Medical Unit, Dentist, Optician, Library and Leisure Centre.

The main impact is anticipated to be when the A42 is closed and diverted, if the diversions are not strictly enforced there will be access issues to the facilities in the village as the centre will be gridlocked.

Air quality and health effects

It is presumed there will be constant air quality monitoring by HS2 themselves, North West Leicestershire District Council and other agencies. This will be particularly pertinent to villagers suffering from breathing and chest problems already damaged from Measham being a mining community and will also impact on the elderly.

Crime, safety and personal security

With the onset of empty houses, on Amersham Way and Windsor Way (where properties remain unsold due to the blight of HS2), it is hoped these could be let on a short term basis until construction starts to prevent vandalism, theft and squatting. These properties could be let to people on the local authority waiting list to ease the burden of waiting for families desperate for homes.
