

## **Measham Parish Council HS2 Route Refinement Consultation Response February 2017.**

Measham Parish Council oppose the Government's proposals for HS2 Phase 2b, for the following reasons:

The concept of HS2 is flawed, in so much that the undertaking will not give the tax payer value for money, and that the information on the future supposed benefits to this Country is based on guesswork and on figures which have no foundation.

Most countries which have High Speed trains, have been in operation for up to 10 years. If the time scale for HS2 is correct, it will be 20 -25 years behind those countries, and they will, more than likely, have become outdated due to advances in communication technology.

The siting of the nearest station to Measham at Toton, would negate any time saving from HS2, and increase road traffic. The time quoted by HS2 Ltd for journey times between Nottingham city centre and Toton does not stand up to scrutiny, as they have failed to demonstrate how they would deliver this.

There will be no benefit to the residents or businesses of Measham, but there will be a detrimental effect on the well-being of the local inhabitants, due to noise pollution, and to the beautiful countryside, and wildlife.

### **DETRIMENTAL IMPACT ON MEASHAM CEMETERY**

The proposal will impact on the cemetery both during construction and once in use. Measham Cemetery is operational having had over 3700 burials including a number of War Graves dating back to the late 1800's with an average of 40 new burials each year.

As well as a large consecrated section, the cemetery also includes a special area reserved for children and for the internment of ashes and there are numerous pre-purchased plots for families who wish to be buried near to their loved ones.

The cemetery is of special sentimental and religious significance to residents, careful planning has meant that this area has been kept quiet and peaceful, providing the right ambience and with dignity that people expect of a cemetery especially in a village setting.

The mental stress along with the grief of families who are already concerned, worried and deeply upset about the possible disruption to the cemetery is going to have a knock on impact on services such as the NHS, this is anguish that grieving families should not have to put up with.

The blight of this proposal has already caused a huge distress to residents, families and visitors to the cemetery and for this reason the Parish Council will not accept any impact to the cemetery either physically or by noise or visual blight, that destroys the tranquillity of the site.

## **DISTURBANCE TO LOCAL RESIDENTS DURING THE CONSTRUCTION STAGE**

Due to the proposed very extensive road works that would be required around Measham, if these plans were to proceed, it is felt that the population of the village and surrounding area will be severely affected by the disruption caused.

Further to that we are concerned that during A42 maintenance or accidents the normal relief road/diversion of using Gallows Lane will be blocked during HS2 construction and this will lead to unacceptable levels of traffic through Measham and Measham High Street in particular.

Current weight restrictions are in operation and the Parish Council are deeply concerned that these will be unavoidably breached during construction causing severe danger to other road users and pedestrians.

Furthermore during the construction the village will experience serious disruption to the East and at no time should we lose access to the following roads:

- Leicester Road
- Bosworth Road
- Atherstone Road

We are concerned that some of these roads will be left as cul-de-sacs which will seriously affect people's ability to get to work locally or maintain ties with their families in the greater area.

## **LONGER TERM DISTURBANCE TO OUR PARISHONERS**

We do not accept HS2's proposition that houses only up to a certain distance will be affected by noise from HS2. We believe that all of the village would be affected especially those located to the south in the valley floor and those on the East of the village.

The noise nuisance will be compounded from HS2, the A42 along with overflying planes from East Midlands Airport including the 6 engine Antonov, this will be overwhelming to each and every resident.

## **THE ISOLATING AND LONG TERM BLIGHTING OF MEASHAM**

The village is going to be placed in an island of noise with the industrial estate and A42 to the West and the noisy HS2 blight to the East. Everywhere in the village the A42 can be heard and this is going to be true for HS2 especially so with the expected elevation of the viaduct and embankments. This is contrary to HS2's own rules in that they should not create islands.

This blight extends to the value of properties, and it is expected that house prices in the area will reduce or remain static, at a time when house prices in other parts of the country are expected to rise by 25% over the next 5 years – therefore making it difficult to relocate without increasing mortgage commitments.

The preferred route brings loss of housing development on Atherstone Road by David Wilson Homes. In particular the fact that they are curtailing their activities with the loss of a number of properties and puts at risk 11 much needed affordable homes. There was also an anticipated planning application to increase the site to upwards of 220 houses in total which is now completely unviable.

There is a further development with full planning permission under threat on the Bosworth Road and associated affordable housing which is on a self contained development off New Street. That is 27 houses (14/00445/FULM) and 8 affordable homes (14/00444/FULM).

According to NWLDC Strategic Housing Land Availability ([http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/files/documents/strategic\\_housing\\_land\\_availability\\_assessment\\_2016/HO-06%20SHLAA%20Results.pdf](http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/files/documents/strategic_housing_land_availability_assessment_2016/HO-06%20SHLAA%20Results.pdf)) Assessment 2016 ; which falls in line with historic plans for Measham. Land in areas M6, M7, M8, M11 and M12 would be affected by HS2 making them unviable and effectively taking them out of available land for development.

M11 and M12 are held in reserve if the Waterside development (M9) is affected by HS2. These are potential sites for a large housing developments which would cater easily for Measham's immediate and long term future.

M6 is of particular importance as it borders the brick works and is identified as land needed to provide sufficient returns to allow re-development of the brick works when it becomes end of life. The site is within a Minerals Special Policy Area (Local Plan (2002) Policy M2). Policy M2 seeks to ensure that the redevelopment of brick and pipe manufacturing works will only be permitted where a range of criteria are met. Looking forward it is vital that this area is held in stock such that the brown field site can be redeveloped in the future.

HS2 through this area may ultimately lead to a future redundant brick works site being unviable to develop and left vacant and as such a future eye sore. 50 million pounds of investment have been pumped into the brick works which currently outputs 5% of the UK brick production. This production is vital to keep up with government demands for house building and must not be affected.

There are many years of clay reserves and clay is a mineral of national importance and can only be worked where the mineral is found. Any impact to the quarry site is not acceptable in any way.

### **IMPACT ON THE LOCAL ECONOMY AND TOURIST INDUSTRY**

The Parish Council has grave concerns about the number of jobs and services that could be impacted by this preferred route. Champney Springs for one is a large local employer (c 250

jobs) with facilities that offer huge health benefits to residents and welcomes national and international sporting guests to the area. Forterra's Redbanks Brickworks may also be affected leading to the potential loss of c 125 jobs

There are also concerns for the loss of jobs and commodities at long established farms on the route and also for a bed and breakfast, camping and caravan site, this will bring huge losses to the local economy. For example, a planned diversification plan for re using redundant farm building for 7 offices and 2 small industrial units at Measham Lodge Farm, which was expected to lead to 40 jobs are now on hold because of the re- routing of HS2.

Measham, being within the National Forest, would have hoped to benefit from increased tourism due to its location, and to the fact that long term plans include the extension of the Ashby Canal which are now under threat from the route proposals.

There will also be a detrimental effect on the National Forest with the fragmentation of woodland contrary to the recommendations of the Lawton Review of 2010. There will also be destruction of re-forested woodland particularly at Stoney Flats on Bosworth Road, this will also affect the recreational activities of our residents due to footpaths being crossed by the preferred route.

### **THE IMPACT ON THE RIVER MEASE SAC**

Due to the proposed elevation of the track at some 18m (including overheads) this will provide a huge shadow across the River Mease and its special/protected vegetation as well as providing a larger sound footprint particularly when taking into account the effects off the hills either side off the valley within which Measham and its river are located.

The ecology of the River Mease means that this should be avoided at all costs and its significance as an SAC should mean that it is avoided altogether.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

The overall prospects for this village with the blot of the proposed route are that its very soul will be ripped out and the blight from HS2 could be fatal to both people's homes and the expectation that they should enjoy them without significant disturbance.

It would no longer be possible to develop anywhere within the envelope of the A42 and HS2 with the proposed route and would have a lasting effect on property prices as well as the health of residents.

### **POSTSCRIPT ON THE PROBLEMS WITH THE HS2 Ltd INFORMATION EVENT ON 18/1/17**

Finally the Parish Council would like to make comment on the consultation process itself. The venue chosen to hold the exhibition was totally unsuitable, the event was a shambles and the location was in the middle of nowhere. There was inadequate parking, lack of public transport to the venue and people were turned away as the exhibition was overcapacity. Many people came away feeling that most of their questions were unanswered.

The Parish Council warned HS2 that this would be an issue long before the event took place, had HS2 listened to this local knowledge then this could have been avoided. If any further exhibitions or consultation events we strongly suggest you source a much more suitable venue.