

HS2 COMMUNITY FORUMS

List of items local communities should be insisting upon:

Overriding requirement

The contractors should work under the “Considerate Contractors Scheme”

1. Traffic routes should be published that avoid, where possible, village environments.
2. Weight restrictions on residential and village roads. An axle limit of three tonnes will exclude most but not all construction traffic. Additional exclusions for construction traffic should also be considered
3. Speed restrictions for construction traffic.
4. Road cleaning and dust reduction measures should be agreed and enforced
5. Properties at risk from construction vibration should have a survey carried out before work starts.
6. Requirements to maintain access to communities throughout the duration of the works.
7. Site compounds and working areas must have sufficient space to accommodate site traffic, no waiting or queuing to be permitted on the public highway.
8. Financial compensation for additional expenses incurred as a result of road closures and access problems.
9. Restrictions on vehicle ingress and egress to/from site during set hours, rush hour, school run etc.
10. Details of all materials stored and used on site to be made available to residents. Any number of things that are regularly stored and used on site are highly dangerous and toxic.
11. Environmental protection measures put in place and independently monitored. Proper waste management procedures to be put in place. Run off into ground water is a big problem on large earthwork projects from machinery and materials.
12. Monitoring the quality of imported spoil. Moving large amounts of excavated spoil from one location to another for bunds creates the risk of moving contamination into a previously clean area, it can also lead to change in a local ecosystem if soil types are not compatible.

13. Vehicles and equipment must be prevented from compacting the soil
14. A local safety and emergency plan should be put in place with local residents.
15. Formal monthly meetings should be held with local residents to review progress, complaints and safety issues.
16. Each site should have a dedicated community liaison officer.
17. Light, sound and air born pollution limits should be set and monitored.
18. Working hours should be restricted and monitored. Working hours that are common in most schemes, planning permissions etc are 8.00am to 5.00pm Mon to Fri and 8.00am to 1.00pm on Sat. No working on Sundays.
19. A simple no fault system of claiming for damage caused by construction work needs to be put in place, from structural damage to vehicle damage. Not insurance based and offering quick resolutions.
20. Street cleaning and dust management.
21. Locations of workers camps, these need to be located where their size will not swamp local communities.
22. Money for additional policing. Large itinerant workforces can generate additional petty criminality; also large construction sites attract criminals and local communities can suffer collateral damage as a result.
23. Compensation for lost amenities during construction work, *e.g.* from inability to use your own garden due to noise, to a village green being lost to the works.
24. Trees and hedges must be fenced off to prevent damage to the trunk, crown, and roots (which extend beyond the crown)
Roots must not be smothered by depositing soil etc.
Trees must not be left exposed by full removal of neighbouring trees
Expert advice should be sought on protecting trees and hedges.