

## HS2AA Experiences



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[www.hs2actionalliance.org](http://www.hs2actionalliance.org)

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### *Engagement so far*

- **Been in front of committee twice**
  - On timetabling
  - To defend locus challenge
- **Exchanged considerable correspondence**
  - On process
  - On experts
- **Tried to establish rapport with committee**
  - Neil Caulfield
  - David Walker
- **HS2AA petition**

..... so what have we learnt?

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## How the Committee works....










- **Rules:** No fixed rules
- **Precedent:** Take parliamentary precedent seriously
- **MPs:** Take other MPs views seriously
- **Laws v remit:** Not familiar with EIA, laws etc
- **Powers:** Can't make promoter (HS2 Ltd) do anything
- **Must listen?:** no – onus on us to persuade & engage
- **Decisions:** No comeback – can't JR them
- **Views:** Can express their views at any time

..... what about the members?

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## What members are like



						
Henry Bellingham (Norfolk)	Ian Mearns (Gateshead)	Robert Syms <b>CHAIR</b> (Poole)	Neil Caulfield (Clerk)	Yasmin Qureshi (Bolton)	Michael Thornton (Eastleigh)	Sir Peter Bottomley (Worthing)

- “Pressed men”
- Not specialists
- MPs – not wholly independent
- React to what they hear not read

..... and the “enemy”?

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## What about the promoter?



Jacqueline  
Lean



Tim Mould, QC,  
landmark chambers



James Strachan, QC,  
39 Essex St

- Constant presence – an unhealthy relationship
- Introduce petitioners summarising the issues
- Well resourced – team on hand to research and feed ammunition
- But won't want to argue the unarguable
- Will strongly resist spinning out the process eg ES  
*..... so are there some tips ?<sup>77</sup>*

## In front of the Committee....



**Dragons Den**  
or.....

**Cosy fireside chat?**



*..... neither, but both instructive!*

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## Do's, don'ts and tips



### ▪ Dragons den.....

- There to help if your case is good
- One shot only
- 'Props' to get the message over
- Think about obvious questions

### ▪ Cosy fireside chat.....

- Treat as a conversation
- Assume they have read nothing
- Cameras not intrusive, but empty chairs will be!

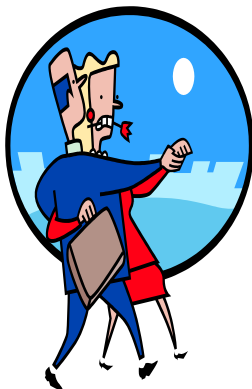
### ▪ Pointers.....

- Do watch their body language
- Do wake them up – be 'different' and memorable
- Don't be intimidated – not Alan Sugar!
- Quasi-legal, but not like judges – get them to like you
- Visuals and 2-page summary good, but promoter gets to see them beforehand too – so can be a double edged sword!
- Be “short, sweet, clear and upbeat”

..... and prepare, prepare, prepare!

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## Presenting: it takes two to tango!



**DIY  
OR  
with an  
accomplice  
?**



**Roll B agent + petitioner as “witness” can help keep you on track**

..... what about visuals to get the message across?<sup>80</sup>

***Aerial shots can help.....***



*..... Grims Ditch, Woodlands home and the Hunts Green dump*

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***And another.....***



*..... Wendover dean and the viaduct*

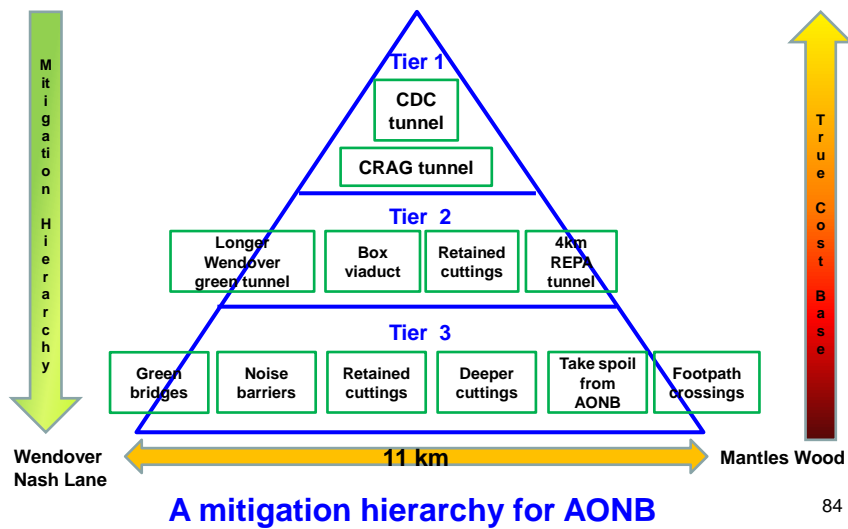
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Or something very simple.....



..... making the point! 83

Signposting and communicating....



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## HS2AA petitioning



- **Locus challenge – won!**
  - We do represent individuals and affiliated groups
  - It's right that we can take "route-wide" issues on people's behalf
- **Petition – likely to go at least twice**
  - ES deficiencies eg noise, waste, carbon, biodiversity
  - Fair compensation
  - Independent oversight body - for promises and eventual outcome
  - Reduction in design speed
- **Compensation : won an extra appearance!**
  - to correct HS2 Ltd presentation inadequacies

..... *concerns on compensation* 85

## Compensation messages



- **Minister's "commitments": honour them!**
  - "full & fair for those most directly affected" (McLoughlin);  
"no significant losses" (Hammond); "very generous" (the PM)
- **Blight evidence (PwC): real, large & here-to-stay:**
  - average 40% to 20% loss (120m to 500m); & agents say further
  - HS1 not an appropriate model for HS2
  - Blight not temporary – at these levels to 2023
- **'Need to Sell' scheme: rules must change:**
  - hardship based despite its re-labelling; misrepresented to Select Co.
- **Property Bond solution: keep up the pressure**
  - Rejected, yet a £30m - £158m **net cost** and proven case by PwC

..... *and finally* 86



*HS2AA Party Conference message....*



*..... £50bn+ on HS2 is not a sensible use of public money*

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