

My Notes from HS2 Mini Summit – Aylesbury Oculus – 8 October 2014

The Select Committee format and Presenting to the Select Committee
Collecting evidence for the Select Committee process and the role of witnesses.

Presentation by Alastair Lewis, Solicitor of Sharpe Pritchard LLP
Buckinghamshire Councils' Roll A agent.
(Agent on HS1 and Crossrail)

Ensure that you “know your stuff” by looking at the Select Committee website.

If you intend to visit Westminster to watch the Select Committee in action first hand:

- Look at the timetable the day before to see who is due to appear or you can ask the Committee Clerk in advance who is due to appear next day - so there isn't the danger that all petitioners have agreed to withdraw theirs or have had their wishes conceded in advance.
- Look at the transcripts of those heard to date to get an idea of what happened.
- This will show the types of questions given and answers so far.
- You can sign up for e-mail alerts.

Or, you can simply watch the proceedings on the free view channel on TV.

So far only Birmingham has had theirs heard and those were mainly wealthy landowners, many of which did deals with HS2 Ltd. and so their petitions cancelled due to non appearances.

The Select Committee is chaired by Robert Syms MP who asks pertinent questions in a very sympathetic way.

Sir Peter Bottomley MP (qualified HGV driver and former Transport Minister) is very well informed and again sympathetic to the petitioner.

The Committee is Quorate with just 3 of its number sitting at any one time.

The Clerk is Neil Caulfield; he sits next to the Chairman and often is the channel of communication to the committee to ensure that they are protocol perfect.

Tim Mould QC is the HS2 Ltd Barrister and often accompanied by his colleague James Straughan -Barrister.

David Walker – Winkworth Sherlock – HS2 Ltd. Agents – Control timings.

The current order of petition hearings is Birmingham, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, - Bucks unlikely to happen until next year and may be after General Election.....there was a rumour that they hear some London and Colne

Valley area petitions before then; but this was felt to be simply to appease the electorate before the GE in May 2015.

In any event, at least 4 weeks notice of the hearings will be given to petitioners to prepare.

All hearings are in Committee Room 5 and although a quasi judicial protocol, there is no need to stand to give evidence in delivering a petition.

Its important to realize that no petition will be read where no one appears to deliver it in person or through their agent and witnesses may be called to deliver any technical points who will be sworn in and may be cross examined by HS2 Lid's Barrister.

The Committee welcomes a 2 page summary of what your petition centers around, (but bear in mind opposition have advance warning of your points too); and rest assured that it does get read in advance...the petitioner can still enlarge on this during the verbal process.

They like petitioners to produce interesting and informative exhibits and evidence such as diagrams, photos or models.

You will receive the Petition Response Document (PRD) 4 weeks before your appearance...submit your evidence at least 2 working days before your appearance and check with the clerk to ensure that it has arrived.

Feedback from Hilary Wharf HS2AA from 2 Select Committee appearances.
Timetabling and Locus Standi ...which they won.

Henry Bellingham MP – Environmentalist – asks often, “Your Plans...Where are they?”

Sir Peter Bottomley – definitely takes interest – give him something to keep his interest levels up!

Use Props to get your message across – only 5 minutes?

You've got only 1 shot to get it right!

Be different and memorable: but not Alan Sugar!

Short sweet and upbeat

Photos (including ariel shots) on [hs2amersham .org.uk](http://hs2amersham.org.uk) wesite.

Hilary has devised a “Hierarchy of Needs” slide for petitioning – see website.

Martin Tett
Winding up address

Trying for a 3 day visit from Select Committee as Bucks has 30% of phase 1 route.
When will it be – Jan or Feb perhaps?

Already visited Warwickshire and Oxford on the morning of summit !