

HS2 Ltd's Opening Remarks

In January this year, the Secretary of State for Transport announced her decision to move the HS2 project on to the next phase and commissioned HS2 to start the next stage of HS2 design and environmental work, for a hybrid bill for the London to West Midlands line. This hybrid bill is scheduled to be deposited in Parliament by the end of 2013.

HS2 is keen to involve local communities in the development of mitigation in their local areas. We understand that some people are opposed to high speed rail and/or the HS2 route and we respect their views. We do hope that local people affected by the route will however get involved in these discussions. Participation in these community forums does not mean that people oppose or support the project – it means that should the project move forward local views can be incorporated in the development of mitigation measures.

The community forums will have three objectives – to discuss mitigation, to identify potential gains and act as an information exchange between HS2 and local communities. They will be supported by the HS2 Area Team, choose their membership and elect their own chair.