

Chesham Bilateral Meeting

24-July-2012
(1st draft, 25/7 ; jec)

Chesham Society

Tony Molesworth (**TM** ; Chair)
Jim Conboy (**JC**)
Terry Cherril
Richard Brock

South Heath Action Group

Simon Hook (**SH**)

Chesham Town Ccl

Kathryn Graves (Minutes)
Tony Franks
Patricia Cherril (**PC** ; Dev. Ctl Cttee)
Collette Littley (Mayor)
Noel Brown (**NB**)

HS2

Martin Wells (**MW**)
Charlotte Brewster (**CB**)

Introductions etc

The meeting would focus on specific Chesham concerns, rather than general AoNB issues which are covered by the general forums.

MW outlined the current HS2 position –

- Task is to prepare a hybrid bill, based on the (Jan 2012) approved route
- Need to assess land requirement
- Also working on Environmental impact assessment (EIA), & mitigation
- Construction issues (e.g. locations of camps, stores etc) are ‘being progressed’ & no information was provided on these issues

Construction code of Practice

This is not yet finalised (Why Not ? We need time to consider it - **SH**)
Can we submit comments regarding activities we would like the code to prevent ?
(**JC**) - **MW** will transmit these to appropriate recipients (in HS2)

Traffic

(**TM**) Local (Chesham area) roads are operating near capacity, as shown by chaos caused by recent watermain repairs (on Red Lion St)

B485 / Church St

- Runs past historic (i.e. without adequate foundations) buildings in the conservation area
- Is narrow, with a dogleg turn at the Queens Head PH
& so *should be closed to construction traffic*;
- Is a vital link from Chesham to Gt Missenden & villages to the W of the A413
- Is the preferred route from Chesham to the nearest hospitals with an A&E dept (Wycombe, Stoke Mandeville)
- Is used by school traffic, e.g. Chesham to Misbourne School (Gt Missenden), & Missendens to Chesham Grammar
- Links South Heath to the rest of the world
& so *must remain open at all times*

A413

- Is a major transport corridor from Aylesbury (& Vale) to W. London & the M25
- Operates near capacity during the morning & evening peak demand
Construction traffic must be regulated, to avoid displacement of commuter traffic onto minor routes, particularly via Chartridge Lane & onwards through Chesham & Amersham

Chiltern Railways

Is a major commuter route to Central London from Chesham and surrounding villages. Any *disruption to this service* (at points where it intersects the HS2 route – e.g. near the southern end of Wendover bypass) has the potential to displace commuters onto the roads, & *should be avoided*. [Same goes for Metropolitan line, although this is not as obviously affected by HS2 construction]

Environment

Construction Camp (TM) – Where, & how big ? Chiltern core (housing) strategy calls for 2900 dwellings in Chiltern district (over 10 ? years – jec). A similar number of temporary workers arriving over a short period would place excessive loads on local infrastructure (transport, utilities etc)

MW: Camp locations ‘are being worked through’ – cant comment further at this stage; land take will be in hybrid bill (else have to follow standard planning procedures)

What happens to (camp) sites after use ? (**SH**) Plenty of topsoil available (for restoration) (**MW**) Not so simple (SH)

Size of camps – will they be comparable to Crossrail ? (**JC**) Cant comment (MW)

Water – Chalk streams are rare (& fragile) – disruption to the aquifer may impact the Misbourne

Air Pollution – (**PC**) Air quality on Berkhamstead Rd (near Newtown School) is poor, & monitored (see Traffic above) .

Code may regulate movement of plant & materials, but workers & contractors are still likely to use local roads (**NB**)

Business

Chesham is a town of 25000 people, with light industry & tourism; also HQ of Chilterns society

Is a Shopping & leisure centre for local villages, & so needs to retain transport links to support local economy (**NB**)

>> **Chesham Soc & Town Ccl** to report back on transport links, use of rights of way

(Brief review of the [HS2 timeline](#)¹ at this point – **MW**)

Representation

Chesham society's request to be placed on mailing lists for the 3 AoNB forums was agreed (**CB** to check ; Emails to Jim Conboy)

Emails to the Ccl to be sent to the town clerk

MW – wants the forums to work, believes small forums to discuss local issues are more manageable. Forum membership 'is not an issue', (except at the 1st Wendover meeting). Possibility of a combined Forum for the AoNB was mentioned, but was beyond the scope of this meeting.

AoB

(**NB**) Will there be a proper survey at Grimms Ditch before construction commences ??

Next Meeting when situation warrants. - September ??

¹ <http://www.hs2amersham.org.uk/Resources/Forums/June%202012%20-%20CF%20round%20%20timeline.pdf>