

Meeting minutes

Euston Community Representatives Group (ECRG)

Meeting date Thursday, 02 December 2021

Meeting location Via Microsoft Teams

Meeting time 5pm – 7pm

Attendees

KM	Dr. Karl Mackie CBE	Independent Chair
AA	Amy Allen	SCS, Stakeholder Engagement Manager – Area Central
AK	Aigul Kalioldina	HS2, Engagement Manager
AP	Annie-Rose Peterman	[joined from item 8.9]
AW	Aaron Renker	SCS, Senior Construction Manager
CA	Charlotte Akinola	LB Camden, Communications Manager
DBe	Cllr Danny Beales	LB Camden
DD	David Demolder	Euston Station IPT, Head of Stakeholder Management
DH	Dorothea Hackman*	Camden Civic Society, St Pancras Church, Netley School
HM	Hazel Maguire	Network Rail, Senior Communications Manager
JM	John Myers*	Drummond Street TRA
JTr	Jeff Travers	Primrose Hill, Gloucester Avenue
KM	Katy Mann	LB Camden, Head of HS2 Programme Delivery
LA	Luisa Auletta*	Camden Cutting Group, Co-Chair
LH	Lee Harman	SCS, Delivery Lead Area East
MB	Mary Burd	Albert Street North Residents' Assoc, HS2 into London
MH	Matt Hollier*	Camden Cutting Group, Co-Chair
MS	Maddelyn Sutton	HS2, Head of Community Engagement
MW	Mark Winter	HS2, Senior Project Manager
PM	Paul Braithwaite	Former Chair, AQGOST [joined from item 8.6]
RC	Richard Crathern	HS2, Senior Project Manager- SCS - East

RL	Robert Latham	Silsoe House
RP	Ross Pearson	HS2, Senior Community Engagement Manager
SC	Stephen Charman	HS2, Community Engagement Manager
SD	Slaney Devlin	Somers Town Neighbourhood Forum
TD	Tom Duckmanton	Network Rail, Sponsorship Manager

*ECRG Contact Group

Apologies were received from Laurence Whitbourn, HS2

1 Welcome and introductions

- 1.1 Dr Karl Mackie, CBE.
- 1.2 The HS2 representatives introduced themselves.
- 1.3 The Contact Group representatives introduced themselves.
- 1.4 KM briefed the attendees on the meeting format designed to help keep the meeting to time, ensure that all agenda items are covered and provide greater opportunity for community representatives to raise questions.
 - As presentations are circulated in advance the time allowed for additional information to be provided by presenters is limited to the time set out under each item (e.g. two minutes for contractors' updates).
 - The time allowed for questions on each agenda item is set out under that item.
 - The contribution from any one speaker is limited to five minutes for the meeting overall and three minutes per contribution.
 - You are encouraged to join the meeting early should you wish to check that your microphone and speakers are working.
 - Questions may be posed in the "Chat" or by raising your "hand".
 - If time remains at the end of the meeting further questions may be asked at the discretion of the Independent Chair.

2 How to Improve ECRG

- 2.1 The group NOTED the previously circulated slide inviting suggestions to include improvements to:
 - Terms of Reference
 - Membership
 - Papers and meeting format

- Working Groups
- Walkabout

2.2 Comments, questions and answers

2.3 **ACTION 310:** The meeting presentation slides will be numbered in future (DD).

2.4 C: RL felt that KPIs were important and should relate to outcomes. In terms of diversity of the representatives on the group he did not feel that they reflected the diversity of the people of the area and their needs, such as people with disabilities, youth and vulnerable people. He suggested that changes to the group should be focussed on demonstrating that engagement through ECRG was improving people's lives and facilities and was therefore worthwhile. The role of the independent chair must remain and he noted that the Contact Group is doing a good job.

2.5 C: MH asked that more time be given to consideration of improvements and that a separate discussion meeting be set up. The Terms of Reference needed consideration along with the scope of the group. It currently includes Network Rail but could it be extended to include the wider campus. He felt it would be helpful to undertake a stock take of the work of the group.

2.6 C: DH said that ECRG should be used more for engagement about what is planned, and the Terms of Reference includes outcomes rather than KPIs, rather than updating on what has happened. People need to be motivated to attend, feeling that it will make a difference and that there will be clear outcomes as a result of doing so.

2.7 Q: JT raised the point that at a recent "You said we did" meeting SCS excluded engagement consultation outcomes. A: MS commented that Phase One consultation concluded at the end of the passage of the HS2 Bill.

2.8 **ACTION 311:** Convene a session to discuss, agree and implement improvements to ECRG and its working groups (RP). Note: it is proposed that this action replaces actions 211 and 213 – see Actions List.

3 Parkway

3.1 The Group NOTED the previously circulated presentation slides on pre-engagement activities with residents.

3.2 LH updated the meeting saying that the design phase continues and opportunities for residents to be involved continue, later in the month and early in 2022.

3.3 NVK has been working with the Community Traffic Working Group and a survey is going to be circulated to get people's comments. This will include residents as well as businesses.

3.4 Comments, questions and answers:

- 3.5 Q: RL asked if the plan is to close Parkway completely. A: LH responded that is not clear at present if that will be necessary but SCS would like not to close it completely if this is possible.
- 3.6 Q: LA asked that diversionary routes be devised to seek to minimise rat running through other adjacent residential areas. Local residents should be asked what routes they currently use and their alternatives to help inform the plan. A: LH replied that details of the workshops will be published shortly.
- 3.7 C: MB said that consultation should take place in order to help people get what they want. The principles of the Local Area Engagement Plan (LAEP) are not being adhered to, with people feeling they are being told what to do or what is going to happen rather than having the opportunity to influence things. A: LH responded saying that the team needs to work to ensure it is focussed on outcomes and SCS will make sure its team members' behaviours match those expected in the LAEP.
- 3.8 Q: MH asked when the traffic modelling will be shared following the agreement at the last meeting that it will be provided prior to consultation. A: LH replied that modelling is not yet completed but will be shared when ready. AR stated that the modelling will be available early in the New Year (January/February) and it will be shared with residents as well as LB Camden and TfL.
- 3.9 Q: SN asked that covid distancing arrangements for pedestrians be considered. Where one path is closed this could cause people to step out into the carriageway to avoid other pedestrians. A: LH agreed that this will be the subject of further discussion.

4 Traffic

- 4.1 The Group was asked to NOTE the previously circulated presentation slides on handovers between contractors, station wayfinding and the Euston Circus box junction.
- 4.2 DD reported that the hoarding move adjacent to the towers demolition site, relevant to the in-station wayfinding item, would now take place in January rather than December.
- 4.3 HM reported that three locations for wayfinding to Drummond Street had been identified. These were:
- Adjacent to platforms 15/16 to direct people via the British Transport Police Yard
 - At the exit tunnel from the station to Caffè Nero and J Sainsbury
 - At the top of the ramps from the lower platforms
- 4.4 The wayfinding design would be the same as the signage being provided on the hoardings and it was planned to have these in place before or at time of the closure of the external route.
- 4.5 Comments, questions and answers:

- 4.6 Q: JM asked what signs would be visible to a person standing in the middle of the concourse. He asked that the signs be clear and enquired as to when it will be possible to have information as the exact locations for the signs. A: HM replied that as the signs will be at the routing points from the platforms and entrances they will be seen before a person enters the concourse. Further information will be provided next week and time will be allowed for people to provide feedback and comments.
- 4.7 Q: RL asked if it would be possible to place wayfinding on the hoarding outside the former Boots the Chemist unit. A: HM responded that a location alongside this is being proposed.
- 4.8 C: SD said that a walk of the local area had been undertaken with the Camden Disability Action group, along with Kevin Bowsher of Mace Dragados. Access around the Cardington Street area had been considered and this had highlighted that people with learning disabilities, particularly those who are unable to read, find changes to layout particularly difficult and this should be considered in planning.
- 4.9 C: On a signage related point JT asked that parking suspensions for contractors' vehicles be limited to working hours and be disappplied on Saturday afternoons and Sundays. **ACTION 312:** Seek to arrange the exclusion of Saturday afternoons and Sundays from parking bay suspensions (AA).

5 Green Spaces

- 5.1 The Group NOTED the previously circulated presentation slides.
- 5.2 RP drew the group's attention to the improvements to existing open spaces during construction as well as the process for permanent replacement areas.
- 5.3 Comments, questions and answers:
- 5.4 Q: DH again differentiated open/green spaces to be:
1. Returned – e.g. Euston Square Gardens, with discussion of mature trees needed in Euston
 2. Replaced – particularly St James Gardens and Hampstead Road, again with mature trees required
 3. Regenerated – particularly the Adelaide Road woodland and green corridor.
- 5.5 Q: DH pointed out that prior to areas to be returned being designed discussions should be had with local people. She had recently asked that a new open spaces working group be formed that could in addition consider climate issues, as she did not feel that the subject was given sufficient time having been merely mentioned in the last five minutes of the Air Quality and Trees Working Group despite prior notice. A: RP responded that HS2 is not yet ready to speak on site restoration planning for open spaces but will be in a position to provide an update by the next ECRG meeting. DD explained that a response to DH's recent request to provide an Open Space group was under consideration and a response to her email would be

provided. He also explained that there is an existing commitment to speak with DH before engaging on open spaces.

6 Flash report

- 6.1 The Group NOTED the previously circulated flash report.

7 Actions Item Review

- 7.1 DD took the meeting through the outstanding items on the Actions List.
- 7.2 Comments, questions and answers:
- 7.3 Actions 211/213: Post meeting note DD has suggested that Actions 211 and 213 be replaced by and be dealt with within Action 311 which arose from agenda item 2 of this the December 2021 meeting.
- 7.4 Action 246: LH to check with DA if it is agreed that this action is now closed.
- 7.5 Action 277: LH to check with HGT if it is agreed that this action is now closed.
- 7.6 Action 302: Action responded to verbally by AA and will be updated in the Action List. Also to consider if an Open Space Working Group could be used to consider matters such as “net loss”.
- 7.7 Action 303: See the final slide of the December meeting papers for the information on compliance with the Code of Construction Practice.
- 7.8 Action 306: Q: (from the meeting chat) LA asked that action 306 be updated to overlay the current Park Village East layby design on the Hybrid Bill scheme. Post meeting note: Action 306 has been updated.
- 7.9 It was noted that the actions on the Actions List marked for closure will not be removed until after the draft minutes have been commented on allowing for further time for comments on the actions.

8 HS2 update

- 8.1 The Group NOTED the previously circulated presentation slides.

Mace Dragados update

- 8.2 The Group NOTED the previously circulated presentation slides.

Network Rail

- 8.3 The Group NOTED the previously circulated presentation slides.

- 8.4 HM updated the group saying that the information provided would also be included in the next newsletter. She highlighted that determination of the planning application for Clarkson Row was awaited and works would be undertaken at track level over certain weekends through to February.

SCS update

- 8.5 The Group NOTED the previously circulated presentation slides and were taken through them by LH and AA.
- 8.6 Comments, questions and answers:
- 8.7 Q: SN pointed out that damage to the pavement at the Mornington Street Bridge had caused a child to fall off its bike. A: NVK responded that the issue had already been raised and the team was rectifying the problem which had been caused by works on the pavement.
- 8.8 Q: JT pointed out that residents facing the works had yet to be contacted about noise insulation and one was a night worker. A: AA replied that people are being contacted in the early New Year about the specification of noise insulation and this will include vulnerable residents. For the time being, where hoarding has been removed it was being replaced with acoustic blankets. Notification of the trial hole works had been circulated so neighbours were aware. Residents with concerns should be encouraged to contact the Helpdesk:
- **Freephone:** 08081 434 434
 - **Minicom:** 08081 456 472
 - **Email:** HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk
 - **Website:** by completing our [website enquiry form](#)
- 8.9 The team would be happy to arrange for face to face contact with residents if that was preferred.
- 8.10 Q: JM highlighted that the properties eligible for noise insulation had been identified in the HS2 Bill and was therefore publicly available information. He also suggested that face to face meetings would be welcomed and suggested that LB Camden be contacted as it has records of vulnerable residents in the area. A: AA confirmed that face to face meetings had been taking place in the open air. However, door knocking had been suspended due the pandemic (in the meeting chat [18.49] AA confirmed that collaborate engagement would be undertaken with LB Camden and this would be discussed at the regular meetings with officers about forthcoming works). MD also confirmed that HS2 was undertaking face to face meetings elsewhere and accommodated at Euston.

9 Community Questions/AOB

- 9.1 Q: LA asked that the Euston Station Working Group be re-engaged. It had previously been used to provide updates on design, design options and progress. People found it to be very useful and there was a concern that unless people were involved in the design at an early stage they would not be able to influence it (this point was emphasised by LA in the meeting

chat [18.59] saying early consultation will enable better design options). A: RP asked the group to note that the group would be included as part of future engagement on the station design (in the chat [18.54] he confirmed that this would be prior to the next ECRG meeting).

9.2 The following additional questions were raised:

9.3 Q: JT reported SCS's conclusion that in answering the Adelaide Road survey people had unanimously responded that they did not like the materials being proposed as they did not blend with the local area, and wanted walls greened. Government guidance is that poor integration with the surrounding environment/context was a ground for refusal by LB Camden if modification were not to cause delay. Therefore this was a matter for consultation rather than just engagement. It should be explained in the response to the survey why nothing was being changed. A: MS responded that HS2 does want people to be involved in such matters but it needs to be clarified what can be influenced.

[Post meeting note: During review of the draft minutes it was requested that an action point be added in connection with MS's comment and that this be reported back on. However this has not been added as the comment was a general one – ie HS2 will in future ensure that it is clear what can be influenced during an engagement, rather a specific point relating to the Adelaide Road agenda item].

9.4 Q: LA stated the design of the Adelaide Road Vent Shaft appeared like a preliminary design requiring further design development. She could not see why more greening could not be provided and why only minimal choices had been offered because design is an iterative process and there would be several stages when comments could have been taken on board. It was important for residents to have involvement early on. The current design did not reflect local context and it should do so if proposed designs are to respond to their specific location, rather than merely being a reflection of the HS2 brand. A: RP replied that the timing for re-engagement of the design group would be reported on to the next ECRG.

9.5 Q: LA stated the design of the Adelaide Road Vent Shaft appeared like a preliminary design requiring further design development. She could not see why more greening could not be provided and why only minimal choices had been offered because design is an iterative process and there would be several stages when comments could have been taken on board. It was important for residents to have involvement early on. The current design did not reflect local context and it should do so if proposed designs are to respond to their specific location, rather than merely being a reflection of the HS2 brand. A: RP replied that the timing for re-engagement of the design group would be reported on to the next ECRG.

10 Minutes of the last meeting

10.1 The minutes of the meeting held in October 2021 were AGREED.

10.2 It was noted that the March 2022 meeting would be online and that a further survey on meeting format preferences for the June meeting would be undertaken in due course.

11 Closing remarks

11.1 KM thanked the Group for their attendance, questions and contributions.

11.2 The dates for 2022 were noted as having been circulated:

Meeting	Walkabout	ECRG Meeting
March 2022	Wednesday 16 March, 16.00-17.00	Tuesday 22 March, 17.00-19.00
June 2022	Wednesday 8 June, 16.00-17.00	Tuesday 14 June, 17.00-19.00
September 2022	Wednesday 14 September, 16.00-17.00	Tuesday 20 September, 17.00-19.00
November 2022	Wednesday 23 November, 15.00-16.00	Tuesday 29 November, 17.00-19.00