

## Meeting minutes

### Euston Community Representatives Group (ECRG)

<b>Meeting date</b>	Thursday, 23 March 2023
<b>Meeting location</b>	The Wesley Hotel, Euston and Microsoft Teams
<b>Meeting time</b>	5:20pm – 7pm

#### Attendees

AA	Amy Allen	Senior Engagement Manager, SCS Area Central
AC	Anne Clarke (via Teams)	London Assembly Member
AI	Andy Irwin	SCS
AR	Abbas Raza	Transport for London
DB	Cllr Danny Beale (via Teams)	LB Camden, Camden Square
DA	David Auger	Camden Cutting Group, Rep for Clarkson Mornington TRA, CHARGE Committee Member
DD	David Demolder (Chair)	Euston Station IPT, Head of Stakeholder Management
DH	Dorothea Hackman*	Camden Civic Society, St Pancras Church, Netley School
DaH	David Hannah	SCS
EF	Cllr Edmund Frondigoun	LB Camden, St Pancras and Somers Town Councillor
FH	Fran Heron	Amptill Square TRA, Camden Town DMC
GT	Gairey Thomas	Community Engagement Manager, HS2
GS	Georgie Street (via Teams)	Euston Town BID
HJ	Cllr Heather Johnson	LB Camden, Regent's Park Ward Councillor
HGT	Hero Granger-Taylor	Park Village East Heritage Group

JT	Jeff Travers	Primrose Hill, Gloucester Avenue
JM	John Meyers*	Drummond Street TRA
KM	Katy Mann (via Teams)	LB Camden
KH	Kamal Hanif (via Teams)	The Euston Partnership
KRH	Kim Royer-Harris	Senior Engagement Lead, Phase One – London, HS2
KYL	Kia-Yen Lau	Euston Station IPT
MB	Mary Burd	Albert Street North RA, CHARGE, LAEP
MHy	Myall Hornby (via Teams)	Network Rail, Community Relations Executive
MH	Matt Hollier*	Camden Cutting Group
ML	Marie-Ann Lewis (via Teams)	LB Camden
NK	Natalie Kirkwood	Senior Engagement Manager, MDjv
NR	Nina Radford	Head of Engagement, MDjv
NV	Neil Van Kervel	Engagement Manager, SCS
LW	Laurence Whitbourn	Euston Area Client Director, HS2
RC	Richard Crathern	Senior Project Manager, SCS East
RL	Robert Latham (via Teams)	Drummond Street Traders
SC	Steve Christofi	Treasurer of the RPE TRA and HS2 Rep
SD	Slanley Devlin	Somers Town Neighbourhood Forum
SK	Shelley Khan (via Teams)	LB Camden
SN	Sandra Nicholls (via Teams)	Mornington Place Resident's Association
SP	Simon Pitkeathley	CEO Camden Town Unlimited
SW	Scott Wilson (via Teams)	Network Rail, Senior Communications Manager
UB	Ursula Brown	Regents Park Estate TRA

WU Wali Uddin Leader of the Traders

## Apologies

AK	Aigul Kaliodina (AK)	Community Engagement Manager, HS2
LA	Luisa Auletta*	Co-Chair Camden Cutting Group
MS	Maddelyn Sutton	Head of Community Engagement – Area South, HS2

\*ECRG Contact Group

## 1. Welcome and Introductions

- 1.1 DD opened the meeting and drew attention to the agreed rules.
- 1.2 JM explained that the Contact Group had agreed that DD chair ECRG, with the reservation to appoint an independent chair in the future should he leave.
- 1.3 Note: The next meeting date has been moved from the 8 June 2023 to the 1 June 2023. Membership of the group has been extended to representatives of The Old Diorama Centre, Surma Centre and The Third Age Project.
- 1.4 *Post meeting note: Prior to the meeting starting a member of the press attended the Wesley Hotel asking to join the meeting. DD explained that the meeting was a closed meeting and whilst he could remain to speak with members prior to the meeting he would have to leave before it started. 1. Guests are only admitted by agreement of the Contact Group and HS2 to contribute to an agenda item. 2. Members had not consented to their comments and questions being reported in the media and such presence may limit open discussion. 3. Minutes would be available on-line after the meeting once approved by members.*

## 2. Future meetings format

- 2.1 DD asked the group for their preference for the format of the meeting. After a discussion about the difficulties of hybrid meetings, it was agreed that the meetings should revert to in person only from 1 June 2023. Members were asked to provide any further comments to DD after the meeting.

## 3. Project Update

- 3.1 LW gave an update on HS2 Euston Station construction. LW advised that in line with direction from the government the design and construction of Euston Station is being paused for two years and most works will stop. During this time the Euston station design will be reviewed to ensure that is affordable and delivers for the local community and passengers.

3.2 LW advised the following works will continue:

- Traction Sub-Station (TSS) – this will be completed to protect TfL assets;
- Maria Fidelis construction will continue and we are liaising with LB Camden regarding the opening of the Construction Skills Centre;
- Euston Road central reservation works will continue;
- The interim taxi rank will be completed.

3.3 LW advised that we will continue to provide the same level of security and there will also be an engagement team in place.

3.4 Questions and comments:

3.5 **Q:** JM asked whether utility works will continue. **A:** LW confirmed that some utility works have been paused and we will reinstate roads and pull back hoardings on Cobourg and Drummond Street. LW advised that we will also engage with the community on possible meanwhile uses.

3.6 **Q:** SD asked if the taxi rank has to move. **A:** LW confirmed that works to the interim taxi rank will be completed, but we are currently exploring whether to keep the taxi rank in the old location during the construction pause. The new taxi rank could be used for meanwhile uses.

3.7 **C:** DH commented that it is improbable HS2 will go into Euston Station. **A:** LW confirmed that the Chancellor recently said it is 100% going into Euston, the timelines have just changed.

3.8 **Q:** HGT asked why trees were felled if we knew the project was going to be paused. This point was reiterated by several members of the group. **A:** LW advised that we had no prior knowledge of the works being paused and the instruction to pause work from Government came after the trees were felled.

3.9 **C:** DH and several members in the room said they felt deceived as they believed prior knowledge of the pause was known by HS2. She objected to LW saying that she was “upset” about the removal of trees. LW apologised for the choice of phrase used as he had not intended to trivialise the matter. *Post meeting note: DH and UB asked that it be recorded that use of the term had been offensive, patronising and trivialised an issue which is important to the community. LW asked that his apology be repeated, it had not been his intention to offend.*

3.10 **C:** RL commented that the residents of Camden have been treated with disdain; He is concerned about the delays in construction to Euston station and would like a DfT or HS2 Director to confirm timelines of construction and the consequences

of the decision to defer works, and would like to see HS2's response to the pause.

**A:** DD confirmed that LW is the right person to be in the meeting as he has authority to make commitments on behalf of HS2 and knowledge of the detail to answer questions. Any questions we don't have immediate answers to will be taken away for consideration.

- 3.11 **Q:** SC asked when HS2 was informed about the Government's decision. **A:** LW confirmed that we found out via the media. There was no indication that funding would be reduced however, this is normal practice when setting the annual budget.
- 3.12 **Q:** EF asked what thoughts we have had for meanwhile uses for the community and would it be a priority to give open spaces back to the community. **A:** LW stated that we are still developing what could happen and there will be community involvement in any decision made. **C:** EF stated that he would like to be involved in this process.
- 3.13 **Q:** HJ asked how we will fund meanwhile uses initiatives and questioned how useful they will be and how long they will be in place. **A:** LW explained that the funding is limited but we will try to secure alternative funding from the Government. LW also confirmed that the initiatives need to be deliverable, achievable and valuable for the community.
- 3.14 **Q:** HJ enquired how this pause will impact LB Camden's Euston Area Plan as this was previously agreed based on the HS2's programme. **A:** LW explained that he is unsure at the moment, however, he hopes to provide an update at the next meeting.
- 3.15 **C:** JT stated that the Euston Area Plan suggests a funfair for meanwhile uses. **A:** LW confirmed that this is not a HS2 document so he cannot comment on that suggestion.
- 3.16 **Q:** SD enquired whether temporary housing schemes will be considered for meanwhile use. **A:** LW advised that as works are likely to resume after two years, long term schemes such as housing may not be feasible for meanwhile use.
- 3.17 **Q:** MH asked how we will mitigate against the pause of works and whether we could commit to confirming what will happen with work sites during this time. **A:** LW confirmed that this is what we are developing now and that full community involvement will happen before any decisions are made on meanwhile use.
- 3.18 **C:** DA commented that there appears to be a lack of transparency and trust within the community with regards to HS2. DA stated he does believe that HS2 was kept in the dark regarding the pause, however, he questioned whether this was a casualty of politics.

- 3.19 **Q:** DA asked whether payments had been made to LB Camden regarding the Regent's Park Estate (Cartmel, Coniston and Langdale). **A:** LW confirmed that this is being paid in instalments.
- 3.20 **C:** DA commented that the community has been engaging with HS2 for over ten years and feels ignored and side-lined. DA hopes that with this recent news, the community is now listened to.
- 3.21 **Q:** FH commented that HS2 have underestimated the impact it has had to the community. She also asked whether Maria Fidelis will be handed back to the community. **A:** LW stated that we are developing the Skills Centre with Camden and are exploring other options for uses.
- 3.22 **Q:** JM asked what will happen with the water works on Cobourg Street. **A:** LW confirmed that this work will be paused.
- 3.23 **C:** HGT commented that the Secretary of State has said that Euston would be an economical and practical station. She is concerned that the delays will also mean another review of the station design.
- 3.24 **Q:** UB enquired whether the bus stop on Hampstead Road will be re-opened due to the pause in works. **A:** NR confirmed that we are hoping to reinstate the bus stop by the end of March 2023.
- 3.25 **C:** SC welcomed the news of the bus stop reinstatement. **Q:** SC enquired if we could prioritise safety in the area as less boots on the ground attracts anti-social behaviour. **A:** LW stated that a commitment from him and HS2 is to maintain the same level of security during the pause in works.
- 3.26 **Q:** SD enquired whether there is an opportunity to transport materials via rail. **A:** LW confirmed that we do not have the funding to continue with piling works so this is not an opportunity we will carry forward at this time.
- 3.27 **C:** DH complimented DD and LW for their commitment toward ECRG and for attending this meeting.
- 3.28 **Q:** HGT queried whether the shaft construction will go ahead. **A:** RC stated that there are no firm answers at the moment. It was also confirmed that civil engineering works between Old Oak Common and Birmingham are being prioritised.
- 3.29 **Q:** Confirmation of whether the track and tunnelling works would continue was requested. **A:** RC stated that as of today, the works are continuing however, this could change due to funding.

- 3.30 **Q:** Is there still budget to build the track up to Euston station. **A:** RC stated that as of today, there is no instruction to stop these works and the Government is committed to delivering HS2 from Euston. LW added that we are liaising with the DfT to plan the sequence of tunnelling works. RC confirmed that Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs) will have to run via Old Oak Common and not from Euston.
- 3.31 **Q:** HGT asked if there is an opportunity to change the track alignment on the approach to Euston or is the alignment fixed. **A:** RC explained that the alignment is fixed and he will confirm where this information has been made public. **Action 332**
- 3.32 **Q:** FH questioned what will happen with the welfare facilities close to Mornington Crescent. **A:** LW stated we hope to have more clarity on this within a month.
- 3.33 **Q:** HGT asked if excavation of the embankment/scissor box will continue or will this be paused whilst clarity is sought. **A:** RC said he will look at this, however, he does not anticipate that these works will be paused by the government.
- 3.34 **Q:** DA queried whether the over site development plan will continue. **A:** LW confirmed that this is a different process to us so is unsure, but he will provide an update at the next meeting. **Action 333**
- 3.35 **Q:** HGT queried why Mornington Street bridge is closed. **A:** RC explained when works are carried out under the bridge, we need to be able to control the weight on the bridge due to its age and condition. RC also confirmed that the bridge is planned to be reopened once HS2 works are completed.
- 3.36 **Q:** RL enquired on the impact to Lendlease plans; also asked if the pedestrian route across Granby Terrace will be reopened. **A:** RC is unsure about Lendlease plans. Regarding Granby Terrace, if works are paused on the bridge, HS2 will look into a more convenient pedestrian route onto Hampstead Road. **Action 334**
- 3.37 **Q:** DA asked if the noise insulation programme will continue. **A:** RC confirmed that at present, this will continue.

## 4. Hampstead Road Bus Stop

- 4.1 An update was given on the reinstatement of bus stop J on Hampstead Road. This will be reinstated by the end of March 2023. *(Post meeting note: Although work was coming to an end it has not been completed far enough north from the stop for to be reopened. This is because the temporary signals controlling the north and south bound traffic remain too close to the permanent pedestrian crossing to allow it and the bus stop to reopen. It is now planned that these works (being carried out by UK Power Networks) will be completed to allow the stop and crossing to reopen in the second half of April (they are targeting 13<sup>th</sup>)).*

- 4.2 **Q:** SC asked if the Silverdale bus stop on Hampstead Road will also be reinstatement. **A:** LW will check and let the group know. **Action 335.**

## 5. Southern Walking Routes

- 5.1 It was noted that this item was no longer valid due to the works pause.

## 6. 24 Hour Tunnelling Works

- 6.1 It was noted that this item would be delayed to a future meeting.

## 7. HS2 Update

- 7.1 Slides were sent to the group prior to the meeting. DD stated that a revised pack showing the works that are continuing will be circulated after the meeting. DD invited the group to contact him directly if there were any additional comments or questions.
- 7.2 **C:** DA asked about the behaviours of contractors on Mornington Terrace. He stated that they are exhibiting anti-social behaviours and used the example of revving engines in the early hours of the morning, slamming car doors and shouting. **A:** LW committed to raising the issue and seeking a resolution. LW asked for information to be sent to DD (*post meeting note now received and passed to Network Rail*).
- 7.3 **Q:** DA asked why Mornington Street Bridge is a designated parking space for contractors. **A:** RC confirmed an update at the next meeting.
- 7.4 **C:** FH commented that Harrington Square works are badly planned and feels unsafe; contractors are parking plant equipment and personal vehicles there. The south bus lane warns buses of low hanging trees but there is no direction for pedestrians. Temporary lights that were previously on site have been removed. **A:** RC suggested that SCS (DH) and FH meet on site to discuss further and resolve.
- 7.5 **C:** SC commented that the signage at the crossing of Robert Street is dangerous. There is currently a contraflow in place but the signage only ask pedestrians to look in one direction for vehicles. **A:** LW will get this rectified and the signage changed to say 'pedestrians look both ways'. (*Post meeting note: Now resolved*).

## 8. Actions Log

- 8.1 DD confirmed that at the request of JT actions 315 and 330 will be reviewed before closing.



8.2 DA has requested that we revisit action 246.

## **9. Minutes of last meeting and Matters Arising**

9.1 DD confirmed that the next meeting is 1 June 2023 and welcomed further feedback on the format of these meetings (online only, hybrid, or in person only).

9.2 **Q:** JT queried whether HS2 had corrected their September ECRG disinformation ie that Adelaide Road Headhouse isn't visible from Primrose Hill Village. DD pointed out that the matter was now the subject of consideration by LB Camden Planning Committee and therefore JT should consider raising any concerns he has with LB Camden for it to be taken into consideration. JT disputed this saying ECRG should ask HS2 to apologise for providing misleading information. DD also confirmed JTs comments received by email had been included in the minutes of the last meeting to ensure they are shared with members.

9.3 DD thanked attendees and closed the meeting.