

Meeting minutes_{v3}

Euston Community Representatives Group (ECRG)

Meeting date	Tuesday, 28 November 2023
Meeting location	The Wesley Hotel, Euston Street, NW1 2EZ
Meeting time	5:20pm – 7:00pm

Attendees

AA	Amy Allen	Senior Engagement Manager, SCS Area Central
AS	Andy Swift	Euston Area Client Director, HS2
CG	Chelsea Green	Head of External Relations, RECS Network Rail
DA	David Auger	Camden Cutting Group, Rep for Clarkson Mornington TRA, CHARGE Committee Member
DB	Cllr Danny Beales	LB Camden Councillor, Camden Square Ward
DD	David Demolder (Chair)	Euston Station IPT, Head of Stakeholder Management
DH	Dorothea Hackman*	Camden Civic Society
FH	Fran Heron	Amphill Residents Association
HGT	Hero Granger-Taylor	Park Village East Heritage Group
HJ	Cllr Heather Johnson	LB Camden Councillor, Regents Park Ward
JC	Jonathan Cooke	Senior Communications Manager, ONW Network Rail
JH	Jo Hurford	Air Quality Trees and Open Spaces WG
JM	John Myers*	Drummond Street
JT	Jeff Travers	Primrose Hill, Gloucester Avenue
KF	Katie Fulcher	Senior Engagement and Interface Manager, HS2
KH	Kamal Hanif	The Euston Partnership (TEP)
KL	Kai-Yen Lau	Marketing and Communications Assistant, MDjv
KM	Katy Mann	Head of HS2 Programme Delivery, LB Camden
KRH	Kim Royer Harris	Senior Engagement Lead, Phase One – London, HS2
MB	Mary Burd*	Member of CHARGE, Chairs LAEP
MH	Myall Hornsby	Network Rail, Community Relations Executive
NK	Natalie Kirkwood (minutes)	Senior Engagement Manager, MDjv
NVK	Neil Van Kervel	SCS
PB	Paul Braithwaite	Ex Chair, Air Quality AQGOST
PL	Paul Leighton	Project Director, Euston Station IPT
RC	Richard Crathern	Senior Project Manager, HS2
RL	Robert Latham	Drummond Street Traders

SC	Steve Christofi	Treasurer of the RPE TRA and HS2 Rep
SD	Slaney Devlin	Chair of Somers Town Neighbourhood Forum
SF	Samantha Fernandes	Consents and Engagement Lead, SCS
SN	Sandra Nicholls	Mornington Place Residents Association
TG	Therese Gallagher	Euston Manager, LB Camden

Apologies

MH	Matt Hollier*	Co-chair Camden Cutting Group
TM	Timothy Stockman	

*ECRG Contact Group

1. Welcome and Introductions

- 1.1 DD opened the meeting asking attendees to note the arrangements for introducing themselves and agreed lengths of individual contributions.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

- 2.1 The meeting AGREED the minutes of the September for publishing on the HS2 website. It was noted that minutes are not narrative minutes but aim to reflect what was said in the meeting, noting tones and feelings.

3. HS2 Euston Project Update

- 3.1 Andy Swift (AS) introduced himself as the new HS2 Client Director for Euston explaining that Laurence Whitbourn has moved on.
- 3.2 AS explained that he had been asked to give a project update following the recent announcements by the Prime Minister. The Government had confirmed that HS2 trains will continue to Euston and that a private funding model is being considered. The Department for Transport (DfT) was currently reviewing funding options.
- 3.3 The announcements had included the establishment of a Development Corporation to take over from HS2 Ltd. However, HS2 will continue to deliver the critical preparatory works to enable a future station until this organisation is established. In addition, HS2 will retain responsibility for delivering the first operational phase of HS2.
- 3.4 A Development Corporation will be established to oversee overall development of the Euston campus, including wider regeneration.
- 3.5 **Q:** SC asked for confirmation that since the announcement nothing has changed for HS2 and that for the next 18 months HS2 will continue as normal and will not be wound down. **A:** AS confirmed that we currently have agreed funding for the

next 18 months and HS2 will continue with enabling and utility works in Euston to prepare for a new station.

3.6 C: HGT stated that the Development Corporation will need parliament's approval and this approach is not right for the area.

3.7 Q: DA asked AS how long he has worked for HS2? DA further commented that he and this group have been coming to meetings for ten years and feels that they have been lied to, misled, ignored and abused; the group members are weary hence a cynical response from this group. **A:** AS confirmed that he has been working for HS2 and specifically on Euston for three years. He understood the frustrations felt and committed to ensuring transparency at ECRG meetings and sharing of information held.

3.8 Q: JT stated that he was informed by SCS that tunnelling will begin in 2026. He queried who will come to Euston Station if you can get to Tottenham Court Road in 10mins via the Elizabeth Line from Old Oak Common (OOC) Station. DfT said it will take 28mins from OOC to Bond St, which is not true. JT requested that these points be reflected in the minutes. HGT seconded these points. **A:** AS restated that current plan is that Euston Station will be the HS2 terminus.

3.9 Q: RL wanted to query the £6.5bn saving to the public purse that the Prime Minister announced in October 2023. RL requested an explanation of:

- What was planned to be delivered for the £6.5bn, ie is it the cost of bringing the line into Euston from OOC, the cost of Euston Station, the London Underground works, replacement of the conventional station?
- How will these funds be raised?
- What is the evidential basis for the £6.5bn?
- Can we have an assurance that Camden Council and the Mayor will be at the forefront of this redevelopment?

A: AS confirmed that this information is for the DfT to provide and these will be requested. **ACTION 356:** RL requested a response to the points raised in minute 3.9 within seven days. *Post meeting note: Answers will be requested from the DfT, an answer may not be available within seven days but HS2 will share these when received.*

3.10 Q: DH commented that development control was taken from HS2 due to the incompetence in the Euston area. The development organisation is not set up, requires parliamentary approval and does not work for this area. Please confirm who has control over the decision-making process whilst the development organisation is being set up. DH further commented that she thinks the development organisation should be with the local authority and there is no confidence in the current situation. **A:** AS confirmed that DfT is currently developing plans to set up a Development Corporation to oversee development of a new station and the wider campus. In the meantime, HS2 remains responsible

for its current scope to deliver critical preparatory works. It is also expected that HS2 will retain its responsibilities for rail systems at Euston.

- 3.11 C:** DA stated that in 2018 the HS2 Commissioner advised that communication between HS2 and Network Rail needs to be significantly improved. This has not happened and seems to be getting worse. **A:** AS acknowledged recent works to tree stumps being carried out by Network Rail without discussion. He apologised for this and provided assurances that measures were being put in place to prevent this happening again.
- 3.12 C:** SC commented that his main concern is that HS2 are now being used to prepare the area for the impending Development Corporation to manage. SC stated that this no longer feels like a railway scheme but a scheme to demolish the area and make money from new developments. SC is also not convinced that HS2 trains will come to Euston.
- 3.13 C:** PB commented that the £6.5bn was the latest estimate just to build the 6-platform station. It excludes the tunnelling to OOC and Euston Square and works to the classic station. Lord Tony Berkeley's understanding is that the new 8 platform station at OOC is not included in the current figures so the economics of this are not viable. PB further reiterated that he would like to see LB Camden have more control over future development at Euston and support the community more.
- 3.14 Q:** JT requested that we publish to ECRG attendees the transfer penalty between the HS2 trains and the Elizabeth Line at OOC using the HS2 station choice model. **ACTION 357:** HS2 to provide JT information on the transfer penalty between HS2 trains at OOC and the Elizabeth Line (see also minute 3.8).
- 3.15 Q:** RL referred to the funding available for HS2 for 18 months. He stated that within that period there will be a general election. RL asked if HS2 could confirm that if the Labour government were to be elected that they will set up a public enquiry to look at HS2 within Euston. **A:** AS could not speak for either major party and could only confirm the funding HS2 currently has. However, he acknowledged that if there were to be a change of government this could result in a revision of plans.
- 3.16 C:** SC shared that another concern he has is whatever happens in Euston it will not be of any benefit to the local community. It will be a new community coming into the area and this is unfair as the existing community has had 10 years of disruption. He asked that any benefits to the local community be highlighted.
- 3.17 Q:** FH asked if we know the number of local people in the college (Construction Skills Centre). **A:** DD advised that the Euston Skills Centre will be run by LB Camden and is not specific to opportunities on the HS2 project – LB Camden will

be able to advise the number of trainee spaces being provided. *Post Meeting Note: The Euston Skills Centre is scheduled to open in January 2024.*

Q: FH requested further updates regarding the ongoing trial holes and accommodating works in Ampthill Estate. FH stated that she has not received any Advanced Notice Letters (ANLs) just notices on the notice board which is too high and people do not read them. **A:** NVK confirmed that as well as ANLs, they will also send notifications via their Community Mailbox. If contacting this mailbox, please copy in HS2 enquiries so all communications can be formally logged and tracked.

ACTION 358: SCS to investigate an automated response for its communities mailbox.

3.18 Q: FH would like to know what information has been acquired regarding the services beneath ground following Ampthill trial hole works. **A:** NVK confirmed that the surveys are ongoing working on trial hole 3 out of 5 with the aim that all works will be completed by Christmas 2023. At the end of these trials the contractor will provide SCS with the details allowing updates to be provided to the community.

3.19 Q: FH also asked about the capacity of the services being laid, and if this has been adequately future proofed. If it has been completed what methodology was used and can that be shared. **A:** NVK advised that he will take this back and liaise with Dave Kingston for a response.

3.20 C: FH asked that it be noted that Dave Kingston of SCS has engaged very well and effectively with the community at public meetings and goes above and beyond. She asked that this be passed on.

4. Meanwhile Uses

4.1 KF presented an update on meanwhile uses for:

- Maria Fidelis Annex – KF provided an update on potential operators and uses of the annex.
- Maria Fidelis outside space – KF advised that this space will be used for growing beds, and engagement with interested groups will begin in the early new year.
- Euston Square Gardens West – KF shared the updated design following two community engagement events in October.
- NTH Gardens Phase 2 – KF advised that the gardens will be extended into a play area and HS2 will co-design the space with community groups which will begin in January 2024.
- Euston Meanwhile Use Community Fund – KF advised that funding applications are open until March 2024.

4.2 C: HGT commented that she was in attendance at one of the engagement events for Euston Square Gardens West as this site is within the Euston conservation

area. HGT indicated that in the session, it was requested that the Gardens were restored to their original design which is not reflected in the latest design. JT reiterated this point. HGT further commented that she would like the Meanwhile Use design to be upgraded to a permanent design as she believes it is unlikely this site will be needed by HS2 in the future.

- 4.3 Q:** RL queried whether UKPN substation in the Euston Square Gardens West is permanent or temporary. **A:** PL confirmed that this is a temporary location.
- 4.4 C:** DH would like us to take this design forward by working back from what was installed before HS2 works began. He referenced that there were 26 trees in the garden originally and 11 trees were cut down. **Q:** DH would like to know where the stumps of the 11 trees are. **A:** KF confirmed that they will be incorporated into the design. **C:** DH further commented that the lack of trees is contributing to flooding in the area as the ground cannot absorb the water and stated that flooding on Euston Road has deteriorated.
- 4.5 C:** SN commented that she does not like the design and would have liked HS2 to work with local designers on this space.
- 4.6 Q:** SC asked about taxis on Eversholt St and queried if these taxis can be directed into a controlled area like the back of the gardens.
- 4.7 Q:** DA queried what the red line on the Euston Square Gardens West presentation slide was. **A:** KF confirmed this marks out the perimeter. **Q:** DA requested that the outline the old perimeter of the previous gardens is also presented in the image.
- 4.8 Q:** RL asked for an assurance that Euston Square Gardens West will be reinstated once the HS2 scheme is completed. **A:** DD confirmed that HS2 will reinstate the gardens in its permanent scheme. The proposals discussed under this agenda item are for meanwhile uses.
- 4.9 Q:** PB referenced a recent report published on open spaces by LB Camden. **A:** KM confirmed that this was a LB Camden publication, and the full report will be published and shared shortly.
- 4.10 C:** JT requested that we do not demolish the old Traction Substation TfL building until needed. **A:** PL confirmed that the new substation will be commissioned in Q4 or 2025 and the existing building will be decommissioned at this time. PL further stated that under HS2's existing station design we know the existing building will be in the footprint of the HS2 station. However, if this requirement changes, we will review. PL also confirmed that key features of the existing building will be retained for use elsewhere by Transport for London (TfL).
- 4.11 C:** SD commented in support of point 4.10 and further highlighted the significant community value this building has.

4.12 Q: DA wanted to clarify who owns the existing traction substation building? **A:** PL confirmed that the building is a TfL asset and HS2 is liaising with them regarding retention of features.

4.13 Q: JT asked what percentage of the trains are currently planned to be 400m long? **A:** PL confirmed that this is currently being worked through and once agreed the information will be shared.

5. Flash Report and Works Look Ahead

5.1 The flash report and works look ahead were noted.

6. HS2 Update

6.1 Q: SN asked what is happening within the cutting as nothing seems to have paused as suggested. SN further stated that she is receiving notifications regarding works taking place in 2026 but has received no clarity of what is happening now and the impacts to Mornington Bridge. A: NVK stated that he notified the community of continuing works in March 2023 via a newsletter, by providing updates at previous ECRG meetings, and by holding a construction update event in September 2023. NVK further explained that whilst to the HS2 station is paused, the works around it will continue including: Steel reinforcement works for the retaining wall and major excavations in Q4 of 2025. These are indicative timelines. **Action 359:** NVK to share presentation shown which details the timelines of activities. *Post meeting note: please see below the links to the Euston Approaches programme of works, after the Government announcement in March 2023. <https://www.hs2.org.uk/building-hs2/stations/euston/euston-approaches/> link to the ECRG page on the HS2 website where you can view the presentations delivered by SCS JV following the March announcement. <https://www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/local-community-webpages/hs2-in-camden/community-engagement-in-camden/> We provide regular updates to residents in advance of our works which are hand delivered in hard copy and also posted on the HS2 website. You can also stay up to date with current works in the area by joining the HS2 mailing list via the link [here](#)*

6.2 Q: DA queried why there has not been notifications of disruptive works from SCS. He also queried why SCS/HS2 contractors are using the site access point in the northern end of Mornington Terrace which should be only used by Network Rail staff. **A:** JC stated that the works that were taking place are for Network Rail, however, they were needed because of HS2 which may be where some confusion with the actual contractors has come into play. **A:** NVK confirmed that SCS notifies communities within 2 weeks of works starting.

6.3 Q: RL stated that residents of Silsoe House have spotlights pointing at their houses disrupting their sleep and has asked for the lighting in the area to be reviewed. **A:**

NVK confirmed that these spotlights were left on by accident on 25 November 2023 and has apologised for this oversight. NVK also confirmed that the lighting on the east side of the site will be reduced to minimise impact on residents.

- 6.4 Q:** RL queried why HS2 is mentioning works which are due to take place after 2026 when the confirmed budget is only for 18 months. **A:** NVK confirmed that the timelines are based on existing timeframes and also to manage expectations of the programme.
- 6.5 C:** PB requested that HS2 seeks to reopen Cardington Street for cycle access along Melton Street, Drummond Street, and Euston Road as the current route via Euston Circus is unsafe for commuters. **A:** PL confirmed that this was previously looked into. However, this is still MDjv's haul route so from a health and safety perspective we could not carry this forward. The works for utilities will take place on Cardington Street in Q1 of 2024. Once utilities are completed, the next phase of the works would be to complete excavations around Cardington Street and then we would remove the street in its entirety based on the current plans for HS2 Euston Station. This will be reviewed as new information becomes available.
- 6.6 C:** HGT referenced the updated documents that she received last month relating to tunnelling works and impacts on properties. HGT stated that there are no dates, reference numbers or state of approvals which indicates to her that these drawings and designs have not been approved. HGT further noted that sections to the south of the cavern have been left out, 13 sections in total (sections I to V), and the scissor box drawings still have not been provided.
- 6.7 C:** HGT further commented on the document provided regarding potential damage to properties. HGT was informed that this document was provided to property owners however she believes this to be untrue. The document states that her property will be impacted up to a level three damage out of a score of five (with high being the most impact).
- 6.8 C:** HGT referenced page four of the September SCS ANL which indicated impacts to property from tunnelling works. The ANL stated that the level of impact is superficial whereas the document she received in point 6.7 the expected level of impact is a level 3.
- 6.9 C:** NVK confirmed with HGT that the cross-section drawings she recently received are the most recent set of drawings.
- 6.10 C:** JT requested that he would like maps and drawings to be sent in large files and not A3 or smaller.
- 6.11 C:** HGT also added that she sent copies of complete sets of drawings that she would like to see the updated versions of and this still has not been received.

ACTION 360: NVK to share the drawings with HGT under minute 6.6 to 6.9 and JT under minute 6.10.

- 6.12 Q:** JT queried what works were taking place in Gloucester Avenue as there never seems to be any works taking place. **A:** KRH confirmed that these are Thames Water works and she will follow up with JT outside of this forum.
- 6.13 Q:** DA queried what LB Camden has done as freeholders of buildings in terms of surveys relating to works. **A:** KM to get back to DA.
- 6.14 C:** DA stated that a HS2 vehicle was blocking access along Clarkson Road/Mornington Terrace which prevented deliveries to residents. DA wanted to reiterate the importance of access being maintained at all times.
- 6.15 C:** After the meeting JC commented that the movement of bus stops J and K means residents have a long distance to walk to get a bus. *Post Meeting Note: The MDjv team has confirmed that the stops were moved to locations not expected to be disrupted by future works. Placing one, say, near the new garden outside the old National Temperance Hospital site was not possible due to future works in the area.*

7. Actions Log

- 7.1** The group agreed the closure of actions marked “Closed”. Members were asked to contact DD with any further comments or questions on these.

8. Community Questions/AOB

- 8.1 C:** RL stated that the Drummond Street Festival will take place Thursday 30 November.
- 8.2** *Post meeting note: From January 2024 HS2 will introduce a regular monthly on-line drop-in session to give the opportunity for residents to book slots and raise any topics they may wish. These will be bookable from the HS2 website events page [Events Archive - HS2](#)*

9. Dates of Next Meeting

- 9.1** DD thanked attendees and closed the meeting, confirming that the next meeting date is **Tuesday 19 March 2024** with refreshments available from 5pm and the meeting starting at 5:20pm.
- 9.2** The dates for 2024 had been agreed as: Tuesday 19 March, Thursday 6 June, Tuesday 24 September and Thursday 28 November. Any member wishing to receive invitations were asked to contact DD confirming that they are happy that

their email address be shared with other members, as this will be visible in the invitation.