

Meeting minutes

Euston Community Representatives Group (ECRG)

Meeting date Tuesday, 18 March 2025
Meeting location The Wesley Hotel, Euston Street, NW1 2EZ
Meeting time 5:20pm – 7:00pm

Attendees

AS	Andy Swift	HS2
CG	Chelsea Green	Network Rail
CHJ	Cllr Heather Johnson	Regents Park Ward Councillor
DD	David Demolder (Chair)	Euston Station IPT, Head of Operations and Stakeholder Management
DH	Dorothea Hackman*	Camden Civic Society
FH	Fran Heron	Elected chair Ampthill Sq TRA, elected chair Camden Town DMC, charge appointed member rep Ampthill Sq.
GM	Gareth McGaw	HS2
GO	Gerry O'Connell	Beaumont Walk TRA
HGT	Hero Granger-Taylor	Park Village East Heritage Group
JM	John Myers*	Drummond Street TRA
JT	Jeff Travers*	Primrose Hill, Gloucester Avenue
KL	Kai-Yen Lau	Marketing and Communications Assistant, MDjv
MAL	Mary-Ann Lewis	LB Camden
MH	Myall Hornsby	On Network Works (ONW)
MSh	Martin Shepard	Resident
MS	Maddelyn Sutton	Head of Community Engagement, HS2
ND	Neil Durrant	SCS
NK	Natalie Kirkwood (minutes)	Senior Engagement Manager, MDjv
NVK	Neil Van Kervel	Senior Engagement Manager, SCS

OU	Oli Uddin	Drummond Street Traders Chair
PB	Paul Braithwaite	Ex Chair, Air Quality AQGOST
P	Paige Pryor	LB Camden
PL	Paul Leighton	Project Director, MDjv
RC	Richard Crathern	HS2, Senior Project Manager - SCS East
RL	Robert Latham	Silsoe House
SF	Samantha Fernandes	Consents and Engagement Lead, SCS
SC	Steve Christofi	Treasurer of the RPE TRA and HS2 Rep
SD	Slaney Devlin	Chair of Somers Town Neighbourhood Forum
Apologies		
ND	Noemi Drew	Constituency Office Manager, Sir Kier Starmer's Office
AM	Alice McCann	Ampthill Estate
MB	Mary Burd*	CHARGE and chairs LAEP
AH	Cllr Adam Harrison	Bloomsbury Ward Councillor
SP	Simon Pitkeathley	Euston Town BID, CEO
AM	Andrew Morgan	Network Rail
TS	Tim Stockman	Resident

*ECRG Contact Group

1. Welcome and Introductions

1.1 DD introduced the meeting and explained house rules.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

2.1 DD agreed the minutes of the November 2024 meeting which will be published on the HS2 website.

2.2 DD further advised that the Contact Group has the final say for agreeing amendments to the minutes and this was trialled with the November 2024 minutes.

2.3 DD confirmed that post meeting notes are generally not permitted as agreed by the Contact Group.

2.4 DD provided a verbal update regarding an email received from JT today (18.03.25) and confirmed that actions 357 and 361 were removed from the action log in error and will be reinstated. **Action:** reinstate actions 357 and 361 as previously agreed.

2.5 **C:** JT stated that he spoke with RC after the November meeting who provided a detailed verbal response on action 361 but not 357. JT stated that he has submitted a formal assurance complaint regarding action 357.

- 2.6 C:** SC noted a spelling mistake in 4.13 of the draft November minutes, which was updated before the final minutes were issued.

3. Actions Log

- 3.1 C:** DD confirmed that action 357 & 361 were closed in error and will be reopened. **C:** DD reiterated that HS2 do not have any further information on these reopened actions.

4. HS2 Euston Area Update

- 4.1 MS** gave an update on HS2 works in Euston – please refer to slides 8 and 9.
- 4.2 Q:** JM asked if the tunnel boring machines (TBMs) will emerge and be dismantled at Euston? **A:** RC confirmed that the TBMs will emerge around Parkway and the head of the machinery will remain in situ, but the other pieces will be taken out on Old Oak Common.
- 4.3 C:** RL commented on the HS2 CEO's review and the comment made by MS that this is not unusual to have a reset on this type of project. **C:** RL stated that he is unaware of this happening on any project when they are eight years into construction and still do not know what is happening in the Euston.
- 4.4 C:** RL wants to know what the mitigation for the local community will be as their lives are being destroyed. RL requested that Granby Terrace Bridge be opened. **A:** RC commented that Granby Terrace Bridge is needed for utility diversions and access into the main site; therefore, for the short term, it will be unable to have a pedestrian route, however, this will be looked at again in the future.
- 4.5 C:** RL further commented that there is no understanding of impact on property owners and that property prices have been impacted by up to 75%.
- 4.6 C:** RL further stated that the House of Lords recommended that HS2 implement an additional long term disturbance fee, and this has not happened.
- 4.7 Q:** JT queried the distinction between no regrets works and other works, and whether the tunnelling works are no regrets. **A:** RC stated that no regrets are regarding the station and not the civil works. **Q:** JT queried whether shafts have to be in place to receive the TBM as works to the shafts are currently paused. **A:** RC stated that the shafts do not need to be in place to receive the TBM.
- 4.8 C:** DH agrees with RL's comment in 4.5 and 4.6 and the impact to communities. **C:** DH would like the TBMs to be renamed.

- 4.9 C:** SC commented that he attends the ECRG meetings to discover mitigations implemented to the disruption in the area. SC requested that particular focus is giving to:
- Hampstead Road crossing points which have been pushed south by Robert Street.
 - Silverdale bus stop closure, and localised short or long terms bus stop closures, including the number of people using bus stops around construction sites.
 - Pressure for of lack of local green spaces, which have led to an increase in antisocial behaviour.
 - How many people have left the area due to HS2 works.
 - Previous commitment to make Granby Terrace Bridge accessible to pedestrians.
- 4.10 C:** SC further commented that whilst construction updates for HS2 works around the area are important the main concern on the Regents Park Estate is how the impact of these works on the lives of local residents is being mitigated. SC also asked how mitigations are being monitored for success, for example, getting data on bus stop usage from TfL or monitoring pedestrian flows on Hampstead Road. This could be a focus at future ECRG meetings. **A:** MS stated that the ECRG is the communities meeting and advised attendees to let the Contact Group know what they would like to appear on the agenda and submit questions in advance of the meeting so they can be addressed.
- 4.11 C:** RL requested that mitigation is on the next agenda and requested the Contact Group set up a working group to address this.
- 4.12 Q:** UB queried about local forums and how to get involved. **A:** MS advised that HS2 construction partners (MDjv and SCS) will have their forums dependant on area and are responsible for keeping the community informed regarding construction updates. **C:** NVK confirmed that notices are sent in the post and UB has attended a few events previously, however, he will also share the full engagement events with her.
- 4.13 C:** GO reiterated the points made in 4.9, stating that these are key community issues, specifically Hampstead Road, Granby Terrace Bridge, and Hampstead Road Bridge.
- 4.14 C:** GO used the example of the walkway from Euston Station to Drummond Street as a safe way to direct pedestrians around construction sites as it is wide and well lit. GO has requested something similar to this is implemented around worksites on Hampstead Road.
- 4.15 C:** GO commented that bus times have increased due to Granby Terrace Bridge closure stating that it can take up to 40mins to get through the traffic

management on Hampstead Road. **C:** GO also requested that priority be given to opening Granby Terrace Bridge to pedestrians whilst works are taking place.

- 4.16 C:** PB agreed with GO's point in 4.14 regarding a walkway for Hampstead Road and Granby Terrace Bridge, similar to the existing walkway from Euston Station.
- 4.17 C:** SC has requested that pedestrians are considered when setting up traffic management and has asked to reduce the distance that people have to travel due to our works.
- 4.18 C:** SC has requested a walkabout via a virtual walk through of the area so suggestions for improvements can be shared and collated. **Action:** NVK to arrange with SC. **Post meeting note:** SC has clarified that he does not want a walkabout, he would like HS2/SCS/MDjv staff members to mimic the journey from Stanhope Parade to getting to a southbound bus stop to fully understand the impact of closed bus stops to the community and those less mobile.
- 4.19 C:** MS commented that there is an HS2 carpark in Regents Park which is not currently in use; however, there is a set of traffic lights opposite which goes through the whole cycle adding to localised traffic impacts. MS has requested that the timings should be reviewed and amended.
- 4.20 C:** SN commented that there is too much information that residents received, and as the dates to works start and end dates changes so often, the information is often out of date. This does not instil confidence in the community.
- 4.21 C:** SN commented that she previously felt safe to walk around the area at any time, however, with poor lighting and high hoardings around construction sites, she no longer feels able to do this. This can be reflected throughout the community as footfall has diminished which contributes to safety concerns. **C:** MS stated that a wider review of narrow walkways will take place.
- 4.22 C:** DH wanted to remedy the statement that Mornington Street Bridge is opened again. DH clarified that it was never closed to pedestrians but has now been reopened to vehicles with weight restrictions in place. Ambulances hesitate as they do not know if they are permitted to use the bridge and communications with blue light services should be improved so this message is cascaded.
- 4.23 C:** JT commented that he has reconfigured town centre developments and what would be temporary works should be elevated to several designed schemes. In these schemes you negotiate with key stakeholders to ensure the feel of the area is maintained whilst the development takes place. JT has requested that HS2 do this properly and further requested a working group be established to deal with this.

4.24 C: DH and UB believe the term 'no regrets' regarding works is insulting and would like this removed.

4.25 C: UB asked why there was no play equipment in the extended meanwhile use space on Hampstead Road. **C:** NK stated that this was designed with local young people, and this is the design they chose to develop. **C:** UB believes no children will use the space due to its proximity to Hampstead Road and construction sites.

4.26 C: HGT feels the term 'Euston Campus' is insulting to the community and has requested that this is not used, and has further stated that the Department for Transport (DfT) have stopped using this term. HGT would like them to be referred by the community they live in, e.g. Regents Park, Somers Town etc.

5. HS2 and householder insurance

5.1 DD gave an update on questions raised regarding householder insurance. There is no HS2 scheme for increased insurance costs, however, enquiries regarding this can be raised via HS2 Helpdesk.

5.2 C: SN commented that she was previously refused insurance, and now has it, at a cost of almost three times than previously paid.

6. Questions received in advance

6.1 Question one: Hampstead Road bus stops

6.2 Q: SC commented that Euston Tower is being demolished which will lead to a permanent closure of bus stops S and T. SC queried how this impact will be mitigated. **A:** DD stated that the building is owned by British Land and once a contractor is appointed, we will consult with them to discuss concerns and coordinate works.

6.3 C: SC has requested an increase in the number 88 bus.

6.4 C: SD stated that there is an accumulated impact of the planned and unscheduled works taking place in Euston

6.5 Question two: Parkway trail holes

6.6 C: HGT stated that on Delancy Street there is an area that is fenced off and you cannot turn left. **A:** NVK stated that a CCTV survey was conducted at the weekend and the left turn was still in use. Works have now completed and the traffic management has been removed. **Q:** HGT asked if Delancy Street will close again. **A:** NVK stated not with the current programme.

7. HS2 Update

- 7.1 **Q:** SC queried what will take place within the Euston Community Hub. **A:** DD advised that when it is opened to the public it will host an information library and will be used by local organisations to deliver services.
- 7.2 **Q:** SC asked about North Gower Street improvement works. **A:** NK confirmed MDjv carried out some pavement improvement works, and that LB Camden also has a public realm initiative which will be implemented after Ramadan.
- 7.3 **Q:** DH queried whether the new Euston Network Rail station has been designed. **A:** MH confirmed that it has not.
- 7.4 **Q:** DH asked if the lighting on Hampstead Road Bridge will be replaced. **A:** NVK confirmed that they will be.

8. Community Questions/AOB

- 8.1 **C:** MSh stated that he got in touch with the Communities Team within SCS and requested someone get in touch to discuss concerns. He stated that he has only just received a response, even though the request was made three months ago.
- 8.2 **C:** JT queried if the old substation being knocked down implies historic Drummond Street station demolition. **A:** DC confirmed this was the case and JT has further queried on why this is happening.
- 8.3 **C:** JT stated that Clare Young MP announced Great Western Railway trains will not be stopping at Old Oak Common as standard, however platforms are being built for them. JT queried the reasoning behind this.
- 8.4 **Q:** JT queried if a Development Corporation has been appointed. **A:** DD stated that the update is the same the DfT provided in November 2024, and we expect further updates by early summer.
- 8.5 **Q:** JT has queried why there can't be a level station; he stated that he has received conflicting answers on this question from SCS colleagues specifically regarding principal constraints (scissor box). **A:** RC stated there are various constraints which rule out a level station. **C:** JT requested geometric drawings.
- 8.6 **C:** PB requested an update from The Euston Partnership at the next meeting, including an update on their new Chairman.

9. Dates of next meeting

- 9.1 DD thanked attendees and closed the meeting. DD advised that the next meeting date is **Thursday 12 June 2025** taking place in the Euston Community Hub on North Gower Street.