

Latest News from Cubbington Action Group against HS2: May 2014

Action Group seeks changes to legislation

The Cubbington Action Group against HS2 has deposited a petition with the House of Commons requesting that changes be made to the High Speed Two (HS2) legislation currently being considered by Parliament, in order to reduce the impacts that the construction and operation of the railway would have on the Parish of Cubbington.

The petition, couched in the archaic language that the procedures of Parliament demand, was prepared with the advice of London law firm and parliamentary agents Sharpe Pritchard LLP and was deposited with the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons before the deadline expired on Friday 23rd May. In preparing this document the Cubbington Action Group has collaborated with its sister action group in Offchurch and the three parish councils for Cubbington, Offchurch and Weston Under Wetherley to ensure that the requests in its petition are consistent with those being made by the other four organisations.

The improvements suggested by the Group include:

- Reversing the trackbed height increases that have been made across the whole of the proposed route through Cubbington since the 2011 public consultation, in order to reduce the noise and visual impact of the railway and avoid the need to raise existing roads onto embankments to cross the line.
- Reducing the trackbed height where the route would cross the Leam valley, in order to reduce visual impact and noise.
- Providing a bored tunnel under South Cubbington Wood in order to avoid the loss of irreplaceable ancient woodland and the veteran wild pear tree.
- Changing proposed construction traffic routes through the village and taking steps to prohibit unauthorised routes.
- Improving the proposals for footpaths.

A number of individuals associated with the Action Group have deposited their own petitions, reflecting their own particular circumstances and concerns.

The Chairman of the Cubbington Action Group, Peter Delow, commented:

“Whilst our number one aim remains to see this monstrous proposal cancelled, we cannot afford to miss this opportunity to seek significant changes that will lessen the blow on our community should the worst happen and the railway get built. So far our requests for change have fallen on the deaf ears of the railway’s promoter, HS2 Ltd, but we now have the chance to plead our case in front of an independent Select Committee of Members of Parliament and expect, at least, a fair hearing. I am really looking forward to going to Westminster and having our day in front of the Select Committee.”

A timetable for the hearing of petitions has not yet been published, but the Group do not expect to be called before the autumn, at the earliest.