

**Hoyland Milton & Rockingham Joint Ward Alliance
Notes of meeting held Tuesday 16th September 2014.
The Hoyland Centre**

Present: Cllr. Jim Andrews, Cllr. Tim Shepherd, Ian Warhurst, Janet Cartwright,

Wendy Slater (Senior Locality Support Officer)
Joan Whittaker (Alliance Secretary)

Rachael Blake – HS2
David Orr-Ewing – HS2

Apologies: Cllr. Robin Franklin, Dave Graham, Albert Bishop, Anne Sanderson

Cllr Jim Andrews chaired the meeting.

1. Welcome & Introductions

Rachael Blake and David Orr-Ewing of HS2 were welcomed to the meeting.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 29th July were accepted as a true record of those proceedings.

3. Promotion of Ward Alliance Funding.

Bid from Friends of Hemingfield Colliery.

Seeking funding for community access to the site and for the printing of publicity material. Requesting funding to enable them to enter into lease with Wentworth Estates and to produce publicity material, which will hopefully attract more interest. They also wish to purchase a piece of equipment known as a "Tirfor" to remove tree stumps. They do have people in their group who know how to use this equipment and they are prepared to place it at the disposal of other groups. Also hoping to get funding from Community First. They have Sheffield University on board with some of their architecture students doing PhD work for which they are only being charged expenses. Cllr. Andrews asked who owned the land and was informed that the strip they wished to use belonged to Wentworth Estates. The actual colliery has been purchased by the person who runs the group with his personal money, but it has been set up as a loan to the Directors, so that if it ever does make money he can recoup his investment. Planning and Highways permission could be required and enquiries should be made of the main contact as to whether this has been applied for. Joan Whittaker queried as to whether the Area Council paying legal costs and printing costs would have any direct benefit to the local community. Janet Cartwright stated that the reasoning behind the request for printing costs is to publicise the group and get local people involved in the project.

Bid from Rockingham Band

There has been no further communication from Rockingham Band addressing the concerns raised at the last meeting.

Publicity Flyer.

The publicity flyer had been printed and Wendy circulated copies.

It was agreed that we should publicise it to community groups to encourage them to apply.

4. Tesco Presentation

Unfortunately this had to be cancelled as there was no-one available from Tesco to attend.

5. HS2 Presentation

Rachael Blake and David Orr-Ewing thanked the group for the opportunity to address them further.

Rachael explained that their presence here was to keep the Alliance updated with HS2 and the consultation process, to briefly touch on HS2 Plus and to let us know about timescales.

The consultation closed at the end of January and they received just over 10,000 responses as to what they thought of the route – not just in this area but the Birmingham to Manchester section as well. Those are all being analysed and new routes are being looked at and we will give you more information about that when we come on to the timescales.

David said that subsequent to the closure of the consultation, a new Chairman was appointed, Sir David Higgins, and his main task was to look at the scheme as a whole. There were a lot of calls for speeding up the whole process so that they could give connectivity to the north quicker and make a bit more out of the potential these stations will have. Obviously Meadowhall needs connectivity with Barnsley and Rotherham. A report was produced in March and a synopsis is attached. He has reviewed the programme and feels that it can be speeded up so they are now looking at completion by 2030 rather than 2033. One recommendation that is important, and can be found on page 4 is the integration of transport. Basically what he is recommending is that spending periods between 2019 and 2024 coincide and complement what is in place with HS2. That would look at improving rail connections and, more widely, there is a sense that there is a need to look at public transport in general to ensure that people can actually get to the hub stations.

Rachael said that one of the things touched upon the last time they addressed this meeting was when we talked about the opportunity for jobs, etc. Since then Lord Deighton who led the Growth Taskforce which comprised representation from the TUC, local leaders from across the north, in particular and the idea of that task force was to ask when HS2 comes, what do we

need to do to get the best opportunities for local people. Some here might have picked up recently about the One North report that has been produced by local authority leaders across the north, making suggestions as to what transport infrastructure needs to be in place to complement HS2. Obviously that work is not something HS2 is doing, but it is something local authority leaders are working together on, with a view to doing one of the things we talked about last time, which is rebalancing the economy which at the moment is very much concentrated on London and the South East. Two immediate things of which we wanted to make you aware are supply chain conferences, one in London and one in Manchester, which were coming up. Although Phase 1 will be starting much sooner than Phase 2 that does not preclude local businesses bidding for some of the contracts which will be available. These conferences will be invaluable for small and medium size businesses to find out what opportunities will be available over the next 20 years and to find out how they can gear up to deliver some of those contracts, perhaps not the prime contracts, but maybe as sub-contractors to the main supplier. We can send details.

The other work that we touched on before are our educational ambassadors. They are people who work for HS2 who go out into local schools and colleges and talk to people about careers in science and technology, engineering and maths, because we have a huge shortage in this country of graduates with these skills. We would particularly like your views on which schools you think it would be relevant to go to in this area. We need to find out if teachers or career officers would like us to go into schools, be it at careers events or options evenings. It isn't about pushing the benefits of HS2, it is about talking about the careers that projects like HS2 may bring. They are really keen that these opportunities stay in the area for local people, so would welcome views on the schools you think would be most relevant and would benefit from such an approach. Secondary schools definitely, but also primary schools, as they would tailor programmes to be age relevant.

The slide on page 6 is really just to give an idea as to how long things take in terms of the hybrid build process. It gives an overview of all the stages, both in Parliament and in the House of Lords we have the same process. Just to give an idea in terms of the 5th box down, which is the petitioning period, which is when people may wish to petition and ask for things which are specifically affected by HS2. Just that petitioning period alone can take up to two years. You add in all the other boxes and then you have to do exactly the same thing through the House of Lords. This is why projects on this scale take so long.

On to the final slide, which we really need you to understand. We said last time we were here that the Secretary of State would make an announcement at the end of this year about the actual route and where it was going to be. The Secretary of State will still make an announcement but our understanding of that is that it will not tell us the exact line of route. It will really address the things that David mentioned, in terms of connectivity across the east and west. It may cover the stations, but we are not sure about that yet, but we do not expect the full announcement to take place. We do realise the impact that will have on people who have their lives on hold waiting for a decision. We have been told that the full announcement will be

made in 2015, but as there is a General Election next year, it is unlikely that it will be prior to the election. Obviously, the timescales that we talked about last time, in terms of environmental assessment, safeguarding property compensation, etc., will follow the same timescales, unless, of course, there is a change in the administration.

6. Love Where You Live

Wendy reported that shirts and fleeces have been ordered. We did talk at the last meeting about the Hi-Vis vests which are held in the Town Hall and whether we could use these and have the logo put on. We have a price of £3 per vest to print the logo. Cllr. Andrews asked how many vests we had and was told 60. The meeting agreed that this work should be carried out.

7. Potential Projects

Ian Warhurst informed the meeting that his group would be submitting an application for funding for lawn mowers and strimmers to aid in the work of maintaining footpaths, etc.

Janet Cartwright will be requesting funding for promoting better health and fitness for all ages. They require more outdoor gym equipment to add to that they already have. Cllr. Shepherd asked if all ages use it and was informed that it is used across the age spectrum.

Joan Whittaker suggested that we ought to take photographs of all the projects we are involved in and maybe publish a newsletter which could be available at the library and other such outlets. Talking about projects is all very well, but a visual representation will draw significantly more attention.

Cllr. Shepherd suggested that we look at holding a Christmas event outside in conjunction with shop keepers and late night opening, similar to last year but better, maybe with a few stalls for children. Cllr. Andrews said that Darton ran a similar event very successfully with all the shops opening up. They have used the scout hut as a Father Christmas grotto, they use the church hall, have music plus a few stalls for community groups. It got very busy and the shops were very busy. The shop that benefited the most was the charity shop. It was mentioned that Wombwell run something similar every year and, in fact, people come to Wombwell to look at their decorations. Ian told the meeting that Wombwell are finishing their event as the Cole Brothers have pulled out. Cllr. Andrews said that you have got to get shopkeepers involved in it and as time is moving on we have to get round and talk to the shopkeepers very quickly as basically there are only eight weeks to get something organised. It was suggested that the library be used for Father Christmas as this could take advantage of the large window fronting the street. It was also suggested that Grimethorpe Junior Band would play at the event for a small donation. Ian Warhurst offered the use of a van to

provide baked potatoes and hot chestnuts. Cllr. Shepherd said that he would make some initial enquiries and would talk to other councillor colleagues.

8. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Tuesday 18th November 2014

Tuesday 13th January 2015

Tuesday 10th March 2015.

All meetings at Hoyland Centre at 17.00 hours.