

SUBJECT:	Update HS2 vent-shaft construction – potential impact on Chilterns Crematorium
REPORT OF:	Treasurer of the Crematoria Joint Committee – Jim Burness
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Head of Environment – Chris Marchant
REPORT AUTHOR	Superintendent and Registrar – Charles Howlett
WARD/S AFFECTED	All

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 A report was presented at the last meeting to advise members of the potential adverse impact on funerals by the construction of an HS2 vent shaft adjacent to Corns Bridge (where the A413 crosses Whielden Street) less than 200 yards from Crematorium entrance on the A404. The main overriding concern is traffic flow during the construction works, particularly delays caused by the enabling works, including the relatively significant road alterations, as well as the many thousands of lorry movements involved in the construction of the deep ventilation shaft. The CJC resolved that a letter should be sent to HS2 about its concerns (Minute 83, meeting 23rd January 2019 refers). This is an update on events since the previous report.

RECOMMENDATION

- Members are asked to note the report which is included for information.**

2. Content of Report

2.1 Since the last meeting BBC news for Cambridgeshire has reported that Cambridge City Council wants compensation because it believes traffic delays caused by roadworks have put people off holding funeral services at its crematorium. The authority has asked Highways England for money, claiming the start of the of the A14 roadworks contributed to a crematorium budget shortfall of almost £0.5m last year. There is a similar potential impact of the HS2 works on Chilterns Crematorium and the BBC report about Cambridge Crematorium backs up the officers concerns in reporting this matter to the CJC in the first place.

2.2 Following the letter sent to HS2 from the CJC in January 2019 an HS2 project coordinator made contact and a meeting was held. Although there was little new information given at the meeting the coordinator gave a commitment to liaise with the officers moving forward. Concerning the roads and traffic plans, as far as the officers are aware these are still only proposals out for consultation, as reported at the last CJC meeting in January. Emails from the project coordinator have recently advised that *'HS2 matters are continuing to ramp up across Chiltern district, with issues arising around community engagement, ongoing and planned future works. We are looking to arrange a meeting including a number of CDC district councillors and parish council representatives in order to coordinate a broad, district-wide approach to dealing with HS2 going forward.'* The meeting is planned for September but has yet to be arranged.

3. Corporate Implications

3.1 Prolonged disruption to funerals travelling to the Crematorium could cause reputational damage to the Council resulting in loss of income.

4. Links to the Crematoria Joint Committee Objectives and Service Plan

4.1 None.

5. Next Step

5.1 The officers will continue to monitor the situation and proactively seek to achieve the best possible outcome for the Crematorium and keep members of the CJC up to date with developments and any matters arising.

Background Papers:	None
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