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High Speed Two (HS2) Limited
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29 March 2022

Dear Maddelyn Sutton, Rohan Perin and David Emms,

HS2 Ltd Attending Select Committee

I am writing to thank you for attending Buckinghamshire Council's Transport, Environment & Climate Change Select Committee on Thursday 10 March 2022. Members of the Committee found it useful to hear how progress was being made with the works but also did reiterate how the project's highway disruption and ecological damage was negatively impacting Buckinghamshire's residents. I hope comments from the Select Committee will be taken into consideration as the project moves forward.

As you will recall, there were lines of questioning that HS2 Ltd's representatives were unable to answer and you undertook to provide written responses to the Select Committee. Therefore, the Committee await your response via return letter on the following:

1. How many trees have been destroyed by the project works in Buckinghamshire?
 - a. What was their average age?
 - b. How many destroyed trees had a Tree Protection Order (TPO)?
 - c. How many trees have been 'saved' by their removal and subsequent replanting?
2. What is the loss of carbon sequestration based on the trees that have been destroyed?
3. What is the dwell time between a tree being removed, the new tree being planted and reaching maturity?
4. Planting 7 million trees may not be sufficient to sequester the project's carbon, what more will HS2 Ltd do?
5. When will the rest of the trees be planted?
6. How will the rest of the carbon be offset by 2035?
7. The Woodland Fund is applicable to areas up to 25 miles away from the route. How will funds be prioritised towards more impacted areas such as Buckinghamshire as opposed to areas within the 25-mile distance that are not affected?
8. The Committee was advised that HS2 Ltd monitor supplier compliance with their contracts (for instance checking that wheel washing takes place and that lorry signage is correct) however there was little detail on this. Can more detail be provided?

Furthermore, HS2 Ltd promised a series of follow up actions during the meeting which have been noted in the minutes. Once published, these will be available on the Council's website: <https://buckinghamshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=343&MId=16767&Ver=4>

A summary of these actions is as follows:

- Investigate Highways concerns raised by the Cabinet Member for Transport.
- Consider increasing the meeting frequency of the Traffic Liaison Group.
- Ensure 'In Your Area' part of HS2 Ltd's website is up to date.
- Consider what information can be shared at this stage with Members and Parishes regarding flooding concerns in Wendover and Fairford Leys, Aylesbury.
- Circulate where public information on the Independent Design Panel can be found.
- Assurances that the Environment Agency's flood consents along the Great Ouse date back to 2019.
- Responses to ecological queries.

Please ensure that your response to the questions and further information to be circulated to the Select Committee are sent to Chris Ward (Senior Scrutiny Officer) so that this can be shared with Members. A copy of this letter and your reply will be appended to the minutes of the meeting.

Once again, I thank you for attending our Select Committee meeting and look forward to welcoming you again for an update on the project in 2023.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Bill Chapple OBE
Chairman of Transport, Environment & Climate Change Select Committee
Buckinghamshire Council