

## Press release – 12 August 2015

### HS2 Select Committee visit Bucks for a second time

In a whistle stop visit to Bucks on Monday 10 August, the three new members of the HS2 Select Committee came to see and hear first-hand about the impact of HS2. The visit was planned to a tight timescale, with one designated community stop in the Chiltern's area and other shorter stops. But such was the strength of feeling and impact of HS2 on people's lives, hundreds turned out to try and see the Committee at every point where the coach had a planned stop, however brief.

The trip was already behind schedule when it arrived at KingsAsh, as the MPs had spent more time than planned hearing about people's concerns at Wendover. Many people turned-out at KingsAsh to explain their worries about the viaduct and the need for a long tunnel under the AONB. Those involved however appreciated the unscheduled time that the MPs allowed them.

Crowds also turned out in the South Heath area to thank the MPs for recommending a short tunnel extension but also to explain the need for the bored tunnel to "go that extra mile" to Leather Lane to avoid the community impacts.

The community stop at Mulberry Hill (in Potter Row), was heavily attended. There was a successful noise demonstration, where the impact of HS2 on local homes and footpaths was replicated for the MPs to hear. The Committee Members then engaged with residents on the main issues on noise and blight, in what is an especially quiet and peaceful area.

Unfortunately the earlier delays had a knock-on to other stages in the visit.

While a large crowd including many children had gathered at Bury Farm (the site of the tunnel portal), they were disappointed because the planned stop had to be missed to try to recover time. More than 300 properties lie within 1km of the tunnel portal.

People in the Hyde End area organised a special thank you to the Committee for saving the ancient woodland at Mantles Wood, and their community. Unfortunately this stop too had to be dropped, however the coach did still go to Hyde Heath where people were able to show their appreciation.

Notwithstanding, the visit achieved its purpose of letting the new members see the area, and witness the strength of local feeling for better protection. While some were obviously disappointed, the communities were grateful that the Select Committee members took the time to visit their localities.

Hilary Wharf said *"We really appreciated the new Select Committee members visiting the Chilterns and spending time talking with residents about their concerns. Unfortunately engaging more fully in one place needed to be at the cost of shortening the end of the programme"*.

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END



**Chapel farm/hyde End stop (above and below)**



**Chapel Farm/Hyde end stop (below)**

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**Hyde Heath stop (below)**



**Kings Ash**





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Kingsash (below)



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**Mulberry Park (Potter Row)**



**Noise demo**

