

PRESENT: Councillor Jeff Warburton Councillor John Atherden
Councillor John Erlam Councillor Chris Frankland
Councillor Richard Jackson Councillor John Sherratt

IN ATTENDANCE: Clerk Sue McDonald
Members of the public

1 APOLOGIES

Councillors A Unwin and S Atkinson

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

None

3 HS2 LATEST REFINEMENTS

- Councillors discussed the various aspects of the HS2 refinements including the relatively short time allowed for consideration from the start of the consultation in June to the end at the beginning of September. The Clerk was asked to contact HS2 and make representation on behalf of the Council.
- The refinements included a temporary railhead which would exist for at least 7 years, it would make provision for 10 sidings plus office and staff accommodation and would be the equivalent of 30 football pitches in size. During construction of the railhead and the HS2 railway, heavy lorries carrying ballast would be arriving at the site 24 hours a day as would freight trains carrying similar cargo. The facility would be lit 24 hours a day.
- A similar sized facility for train and rail maintenance facility (IMB-R) would be constructed and would also create similar disruption to that described above. The difference is that this facility would be permanent.
- A railhead and an IMB-R are to be built at Stone in Staffordshire. The Council had a meeting with representatives of the Stone Railhead Crisis Group (SRCG) who explained that if the facilities were built at a site called Aldersley's Rough then the facilities would serve both Stone and Ashley, thus obviating the need for these facilities to be built in Ashley.
- The Council will be making strong arguments to HS2 for utilising the alternative site
- If the railways was put into a cutting using a jack box under the mid Cheshire railway line then there would be no need for any permanent road closures on Ashley Road nor a diversion to Mobberley Road
- As the current design stands it would be necessary to import all the materials required to construct the embankment. Councillors discussed spoil and how Manchester spoil would be unsuitable for use in Ashley.
- The ecological damage to the area would be significant and permanent
- There will be a transformer at the IMB-R which, Councillors agreed, would be too close to residents

It is the Council's intention to submit the strongest objections to the current HS2 before the consultation closing date on September 6th.

In addition the Council will arrange a drop-in meeting for Ashley residents

4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Nothing was raised

5 DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 23rd September 2019 at 8.00pm in St Elizabeth's Community Centre.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting

Signed: _____ Chairman 11th November 2019