

**Question from Member of the Public pursuant to Standing Order No 7**

**Question from Miss Danielle Timms**

Please can you stop HS2 from destroying the local area. Here are my reasons why:

- 1) I live in Water Orton and so much nature and land has been destroyed. This in turn will effect water drainage in winter months, as there is no plant life or tree so soak up the water. So the roads are likely to get flooded.
- 2) Also it is creating massive pollution for the local residents, what was once a countryside area has turned into a industrial area, with lot's of smoke pollution which can cause health issues.
- 3) The traffic congestion is outrageous, it distorting the roads and not allowing people to get from A to B peacefully. As there are many traffic lights and road blocks.

I would be really grateful if the local council and do something about this mess and talk to the local MP. HS2 really needs to be stopped!

**Response from David Wright – Leader of the Council**

The Council understand the sentiments and concerns raised in the question and it is a matter of public record that this Council was very strongly opposed to the HS2 project, for a number of the reasons Miss Timms identifies. The project will have and is having a huge impact on the Borough and in our view there is very little gain to offset this.

That matter however has been settled via the democratic process in that Parliament has approved the legislation for the HS2 project. The Act requires HS2 Limited to carry out the development in accord with Environmental Minimum Requirements and the Code of Construction Practice. As Members will know, the Council, Members and Officers, work incredibly hard on working with HS2, their contractors and our partners to ensure there is no additional impact or deviation from the environmental and construction requirements. It also needs to be appreciated that as HS2 is approved by Parliament, local Councils have very few powers in respect of the scheme.

We have however via Craig Tracey MP again asked the Government to review whether the significant funding allocated to this project still represents value for money, particularly in the current circumstances, and we will continue to work with the MP to put this case.

We will contact Miss Timms to ask her to give any specific examples she can of particular problems and we will ask HS2 to address those concerns. Members of the public can raise these issues directly with HS2 via the Helpdesk - 08081 434 434 – and then to the HS2 Construction Commissioner if the issues are not address ([complaints@hs2-cc.org.uk](mailto:complaints@hs2-cc.org.uk)). I would like to thank Miss Timms for taking the trouble to raise these concerns and reminding us all of the very direct impacts this project is having on our Borough.