Committee Meeting – 29th May

## News Updates

* National Audit Office Report
	+ Based on ludicrous assumptions by the DfT
	+ Virtually no evidence that it will boost growth in the UK
	+ Government & DfT reaction has been to attack the parliamentary body which has been set up to scrutinise spending public money
* Major Projects Authority categorised HS2 as Amber/Red
	+ “Successful delivery of the project is in doubt with major risks or issues in a number of key areas”
* Peter Box – leader of Wakefield Council has voiced opposition to HS2, suggesting it would be better to invest the money in local infrastructure projects
* David Green of Bradford Council has also suggested HS2 will serve only to strengthen already strong economic areas at the expense of poorer cities in the north of England
* The leaders of Kirklees & Harrogate Council are supportive however
* Huddersfield Labour MP Barry Sheerman has voiced opposition to HS2 in a Radio Leeds interview – tried to get him to come and speak to us but his office said he was unavailable
* EHS Phase 1 data released showing that of 455 applications to the scheme, 299 rejected. Only 113 accepted (less than 25%) and the rest under consideration
* We made a donation of £200 to the HS2AA judicial review fund

## Upcoming Events

* Meeting with Alec Shelbrooke – 9.30am on Saturday
	+ Peter, Stephen, Martin, Pat Sumner,
	+ Indications are that the Council are not getting behind Alec Shelbrooke’s suggestion for a re-route and we wanted to ask them why they are so keen on the Aire Valley if the station is still where they want it
	+ **Gordon suggests we need to put pressure on our own Labour Councillors to influence Wakefield**
	+ **We agreed that we need to ask all 3 Councillors to attend the next Committee meeting**
	+ Not expecting Councillors Wakefield & Lewis to be able to attend, but Alec Shelbrooke says he will ask them to agree the date of the next meeting so they can plan to attend
	+ **The meeting will therefore be at Peter’s & James will email the committee**
* Swillington Farm Open Day – Sunday 9th June
	+ Ed
	+ Balloons showing route & height of viaduct
	+ SOWHAT stand for info & gathering details for people
	+ **There was an offer of leafleting the area if Ed was interested**
	+ **James has emailed to see if this would be useful**
	+ **Leaflets have**
* Deputation to Full Council
	+ Speech has been written
	+ Just need some input from Ed
	+ This will happen in July/August
		- Introductions
		- What are the effects of the proposed route of HS2 on:
			* Residents?
			* Businesses?
		- How would the Council respond to a request for planning permission akin to HS2?
		- What scrutiny has been conducted on the business case/benefits of HS2 to Leeds?
			* In light of National Audit Office report
			* We request evidence that the benefits/disbenefits have been properly evaluated
		- We request that a working group is established by Leeds City Council to represent our interests as residents of the city
		- **There was discussion about Pontefract succeeding in having the motorway re-routed by using planning permission as the argument against**
* National STOPHS2 Convention – 29th June – Staffordshire County Showground – 9.30am to 5.30pm
	+ [www.stophs2-officialmerchandise.co.uk](http://www.stophs2-officialmerchandise.co.uk)
	+ I have registered to attend – Cost £10 per ticket
	+ Church Fenton Andrew & Jo will be going
	+ Had discussed taking a stall but haven’t heard back from Jo in a few days
* Don’t forget the HS2 debate on 27th June
* Rothwell Carnival is on 18th July – we had been invited to have a stall there but James, Dayle & Martin are on holiday – **Can anyone else help with this?**

## Class Action – Martin

* A group of people are aiming to take the government to court over human rights & compensation
* The ultimate aim is to get the project cancelled by making it too expensive through forcing the government to compensate fairly
* Based on previous legal action by a group of residents opposed to an airport’s expansion
	+ Lawyers believe they would have been successful and the government would have lost if they hadn’t run out of money
* A route has been mapped out through to the European Courts by barristers and solicitors, many of whom are giving time for free
	+ France paid compensation to residents up to 1.5 miles away from TGV lines
* Website is now online at [www.cahs2.com](http://www.cahs2.com) - password access only
* Aim to gather as much data as possible from homeowners living close to the line and ask if they are prepared to contribute towards legal costs
	+ If enough households come forwards, it could be as little as £30 per household to take the government through the courts
* The group need local press contacts for the launch of the action – national media already briefed
* The person leading the action also offers to do surveys for £15 per household on the potential impact of the train (noise etc)

## Photos of the route required by Keith Hoffmeister

* I’m happy to do the route from where it crosses the existing railway line close to the Maltings down to where it rejoins the railway line near Stourton
	+ Any other volunteers? – Martin will shoot Clumpcliffe/Fleet Lane area

## Thoughts on Strategy

* Unfortunately Louise & Paul are on hold so are unable to attend tonight
* Who do we want to see at the next meeting?

## AOB?

* Gordon asked how we should keep communicating with the wider group
	+ More leafeting was mentioned
	+ Another meeting/talk at Blackburn Hall
* 29th June is Woodlesford Primary School Fair – potentially give out leaflets – Same day as the nationwide STOPHS2 meeting
* Martin has arranged for Alec Shelbrooke to visit Clumpcliffe on Saturday