

PAN-CAMDEN HS2 ALLIANCE



NEWSLETTER 6TH MARCH 2011

Dear All,

We are holding a **Public Meeting on Wed 16th March 7.30**

At St Mary's Church corner of King Henry 's Rd Primrose Hill Rd.

The purpose of the meeting will be to inform and answer questions on the **HS2 plan**, its footprint in Euston and its route under and over our Borough.

HS2 will involve the destruction of homes and listed buildings in Euston, huge disruption and uncertain development in Camden Town, Park Village and tunnelling under parts of Primrose Hill, Belsize Park , Swiss Cottage and Kilburn.

The High Speed Two Consultation was launched by Phillip Hammond Secretary of State for Transport on Monday 28th February.

At a Town Hall meeting facilitated by Cllr. Sue Vincent, Camden Cabinet member for Planning and Environment, groups with an interest in HS2 from across Camden agreed to join together to question the stated justification for the construction of HS2.

<http://www.camdennewjournal.com/news/2011/mar/%E2%80%98we%E2%80%99re-all-going-same-direction-oppose-hs2%E2%80%99-residents-groups-unite-campaign-against-hi>

<http://www.camdennewjournal.com/letters/2011/mar/forum-hs2-clever-man-sells-dumb-scheme>

http://www.hamhigh.co.uk/news/camden_councillors_protest_against_hs2_costs_in_open_letter_1_817863

There is no guarantee that once the consultation is over, and a Railway Bill passed through Parliament giving extraordinary powers to HS2ltd, that it will not change further, either out of engineering necessity, at the whim of HS2ltd, or of future government.

The HS2 Project has now been condemned by Friends of the Earth and the Green Party, yet Philip Hammond continues to claim its “environmental benefits”. Leading economists have also described its business case “misconceived”, yet Mr Hammond persists in claiming that it is ‘value for money’.

Railway infrastructure experts have called instead for the adoption of Rail Package 2 (RP2), developed by rail engineers Atkins, which would upgrade the West Coast Mainline immediately and incrementally for £2billion, freeing up capacity and increasing speed.

For most people the technical arguments are tedious. However, with £34 Billion of tax-payers money at stake, rising costs, jobs and services cut, it is necessary that they are argued in detail in an evidence based forum. This is certainly **not** what the Transport Secretary and HS2 want to do over this consultation period.

What is not tedious is that the London Borough of Camden will have the largest infrastructure project since the Channel Tunnel right at its heart. It is now emerging that Birmingham ratepayers are being asked to foot part of the HS2 bill from rates. This may well also be the case with the London boroughs.

Please come along to the meeting and hear a clear account of the HS2 proposals and how they will affect you. You will then have a basis of real knowledge upon which to form an opinion.

The new route is shown here:

<http://www.phhs2referencegroup.org/page13.php>

Larger route map here:

<http://www.phhs2referencegroup.org/page14.php>

Further information: <http://www.phhs2referencegroup.org>

Directions to St Mary's Church, NW33DJ
<http://www.smyph.org.uk/contact-us.html>

If you wish to be included or removed from the email list please email:

info@phhs2referencegroup.org.

Please forward this notice to anyone you think may be interested.