



Packington Church of England Primary School

Headteacher ~ Mrs C J Price

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FREEPOST
HS2 Phase 2B
Route Refinement Consultation

1st February 2017

Dear Sirs,

Consultation HS2 Phase 2B, Birchmoor to Worthington

Packington C of E Primary School

In January 2014, as part of the consultation on the proposed northern extension of HS2, I wrote registering the objections of staff and governors to the proposals.

In summary those objections were on the grounds of:

There being no provable business case for the project.

Spending on HS2 was not a sensible use of scarce public resources compared to the needs of other vital services.

Significant environmental damage, making our village a less desirable place to live and work.

Adverse impact on our school and on the teaching and learning of our children, due to the proximity of the line.

Disruption to local roads, affecting our staff, pupils and their parents.

I have seen nothing in the intervening period to suggest that the case for HS2 has been proven.

In the light of the proposed route changes it is evident that those representations have been completely ignored.

Previously the nearest point of the line to our school was some 500 metres, and at that point on a viaduct. On the proposed route amendment the school will be only 350 metres from the HS2 line. The section of viaduct has been realigned but moved closer to the school, increasing the noise pollution. This will be exacerbated by an additional, and much longer, elevated section close to the village. Our children utilise the village recreation ground for sports events. The play equipment is also heavily used. These facilities are also regularly utilised directly after school by parents with both school age and pre-school children. The recreation ground is less than 200 metres from the proposed change of route.

Our Primary School is one of the best regarded in Leicestershire and we currently educate 113 children from Packington and the surrounding area. A significant number of those children would need to cross the revised route in order to get to school.

We consider that the revised route would have a number of adverse implications for the school community.

1. During construction:-

Environmental impact of construction noise on our teaching and learning, especially outdoor activities, both on the school site and on the recreation ground.

Environmental impact of dust from construction work on the health of our children, both indoors and during outdoor activities, especially sports activities.

Environmental impact of dust from construction on our building fabric, and an associated increase in cleaning costs.

Disruption to the journeys of our staff, pupils and parents accessing and leaving the school.

The construction of HS2 so close to the village may discourage people with young families from settling here, putting the future of our very successful school at risk.

2. During operation:-

Noise disturbance to school activities from frequent high speed train services, especially where crossing elevated sections on viaducts and embankments.

Psychological impact of constant noise disturbance on young children.

I am advised that due to the close proximity of the HS2 line it is likely that we will need to install secondary glazing throughout the school, as a noise abatement measure, at a cost of many tens of thousands of pounds. This is money that neither the school nor the local authority have at their disposal.

For the reasons set out above I wish to register my very strong objections to the proposed change of route.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. C. Price
Headteacher

TOGETHER WE CAN ACHIEVE MORE - with Jesus as our guiding light!