

## **April 2017 update on High Speed 2 (HS2) issues Air Quality, Green and Open Spaces and Trees group (AQGOST) convened by camdencivicsociety@gmail.com**

*AQGOST has a Camden wide remit, including the impact of High Speed 2 construction on Air Quality (AQ), Green and Open Spaces and Trees. AQGOST met 16 March, next 4 May with Keir Starmer, MP. HS2 Euston Community Representatives Group (ECRG) Air Quality group met 15 March, next 16 May.*

### Summary of AQGOST issues, concerns and actions requested of HS2

- a) HS2 to ensure staff of sufficient seniority and with the necessary information attend ECRG AQ working group meetings in order action community issues
- b) HS2 to improve air quality measurement: diffusion tubes are old technology giving a monthly averaged nitrogen dioxide measurement with a wide margin of error and too many are missing. The legal level tolerated is 40 micrograms per cubic metre. This is routinely exceeded around Euston. Euston Road is over double that, our schools are exposed to daily averages of over 60mgs.
  - a. HS2 to measure all particulates: nanoparticles & PM2.5 as well as ParticleMass10
  - b. Real time comprehensive monitoring available to the community co-ordinated with Camden measurement reporting, HS2 are only planning calendar year reporting in retrospect. HS2 also to use AQmesh monitors, like Camden.
  - c. HS2 to move their diffusion tubes out from under trees/behind road signs, and provide a diffusion tube in Drummond St all as requested in Oct 2016.
  - d. HS2 also to measure mid road and residential roads as their diffusion tubes are at more highly polluted road junctions, and they were placed after replacement housing construction began, which gives a higher baseline: additional pollution from HS2 construction & vehicles will be a smaller percentage increase from a higher baseline.
- c) HS2 to provide a fully equipped AQ monitoring van with state of the art equipment, arrangements for the analysis, provision for maintenance and annual running costs.
- d) Sets of hand-held monitors issued to all the local schools and community groups, Camden-wide.
- e) HS2 not to extrapolate from a few months as if they were full year observations. Six month data to 31 Dec16 to be compared to summer 2017 and reported promptly
- f) Reducing diesel engine emissions on roads would contribute immediately to improving air quality. HS2 to use sufficiently more rail rather than Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) to remove spoil, and Camden to ban vehicles over 7.5tons on our residential roads.
- g) HS2 to protect the community with remedial action able to be initiated by the community when trigger levels are exceeded. Currently only Code of Construction Practice (COCP) live dust PM monitoring is planned with no instant remedial action.

### The trees that HS2 plan to cut down in the Euston area:

- h) HS2 was to produce a Tree Plan due 28 days after royal assent and this has not happened
- i) HS2 to use the Camden tree identifying numbers listed on the Camden website,
- j) HS2 to identify a senior member of HS2 staff accountable/responsible for trees, every tree felling to be individually authorised as unavoidable and reported in advance
- k) HS2 to maintain public record of tree felling current and proposed on the HS2 website
- l) HS2 to provide clear plans for "temporary" measures to maintain at least the current levels of air quality for seventeen years or more of construction. There needs to be an urgent working group with Camden Council and constructors on costs and feasibility of this and point (m) below.  
What is the cost of providing and maintaining a green wall around every school for 17 years?
- m) HS2 to provide clear plans pinning down the post construction permanent tree replacements of comparable air quality maintenance proportions and numbers, and the re-provision of genuine public green spaces to at least pre-HS2 levels in all areas affected by HS2. This and point (l) above to be stated explicitly in the Euston Area Plan, the unified station design and the over site development.
- n) HS2 to provide plans and timescale for Euston Square Gardens, with no unmotivated, see point (j), tree felling, and no reorientation north south nor other disruption to this historic London Square.
- o) HS2 to provide plans and timescale for St James Gardens and surrounding street trees and restore an acre of the gardens, the south west triangle, to public use.
- p) HS2 to use the Maria Fidelis school site as the lorry holding area during construction sparing the zoo carpark and urban hedgehog colony, then consolidate it with the remaining acre of St James Garden, and state this in the Euston Area Plan.