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Councillor Phil Jones
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Dear Alison

In September 2014 HS2 Ltd conceded that they needed to engage properly with people living and working around Euston. We welcomed this announcement and officers and Councillors have been heavily involved in the Joint Euston Team's efforts to engage the local community. This engagement was long overdue, and the last 6 months have not been without their disappointments in this regard, but we welcome the renewed commitment to engagement in the area and hope that it will prove to be broad and inclusive.

However the efforts at Euston by the Joint Team have again highlighted that, following the cessation of the Community Forum meetings, the engagement of HS2 Ltd in the rest of the borough continues to be woefully inadequate. In the same way that HS2 Ltd have recognised the impacts on Euston to be unique and require an appropriate forum for the local community to have their voice heard, there must also be a mechanism by which HS2 Ltd can engage with people from other highly affected areas in the borough.

In particular the construction of vent shafts at Adelaide Road and South Hampstead require engagement with local residents and businesses and many hundreds more residents in Primrose Hill, Camden Town and across the borough will be affected by lorry movements, tunnelling and construction compounds. These are issues of concern to more than just people who have petitioned and we would hope that early and broad engagement with local residents and businesses could ensure that the best possible outcome is achieved for Camden's communities.

I read with interest the comments in the Select Committee's recent report encouraging HS2 Ltd to be more timely in its engagement and the benefits this can bring. I hope that these will be taken on board and I will be asking Cllr Hayward to raise the urgent need for more engagement across the borough with David Higgins when she next meets with him.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Jones", written in a cursive style.

Councillor Phil Jones

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Transport & Planning