

Monday 18 March 2019

Dear Allan,

## **High Speed 2: Significant effects of construction at Euston**

Firstly, we'd like to welcome you to your new role at HS2 Ltd. Significant challenges and opportunities lie ahead as the construction programme unfolds and we look forward to working closely with you to get the best outcomes for communities that are affected in Camden.

As you begin, we write to request that your attention is directed to the immediate impact that HS2 construction is having in the residential areas directly around Euston. We have done a number of walkabouts on the Estate with a range of community and Government stakeholders to ensure that those involved in decision making about HS2 understand the on the ground situation for residents.

As part of our sustained engagement with the residents of Regents Park, at the end of January we both met members of the community which is an area that will experience prolonged impacts throughout the construction period, given its proximity to the HS2 site. Residents expressed to us their deep anger about the disruption caused by HS2, their lack of faith that they will be able to change things, and their anxiety about the safety of their families in a community increasingly isolated by construction. This echoes the feedback that we have received during the previous months as HS2 construction has started in earnest.

At this meeting and as part of our wider engagement it became abundantly clear that the closure of St James Garden's and Euston Square Gardens (west) has had an additional localised effect of displacing rough sleepers from Euston and anti-social behaviour including drug dealing into the surrounding residential areas. The number of hoardings, road closures and diversions are creating under-used and unvisited areas of the Regents Park estate which is exacerbating a sense for residents that they are under siege.

A number of residents at the event spoke to us about crime on their streets and a fear about being out and about after dark, including the children of a man whose home was broken into and who was grievously injured. It is the overwhelming experience of the residents that have spoken to us that there has been an increase in both the regularity and severity of crime on their streets since HS2 construction began.

This meeting also highlighted a number of issues that residents are experiencing on the ground relating to noise, vibration and dust which is affecting people's day to day lives and, in some cases, their mental and physical health. We would appreciate an



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opportunity to discuss the assurances made by HS2 around mitigating the impact of construction and the experience of residents to date.

Residents spoke to us of their desire to engage with HS2 and communicate their experiences and seek to have some impact on the scheduling of and approach to works. HS2, Camden Council and residents are partners in the Euston area for the long term and with a number of years of construction ahead of us it is imperative that we maintain the trust of residents and communities. We have a shared duty to ensure that residents lives are not blighted by construction, and that Regents Park remains a vibrant and welcoming place to live and grow up.

We would therefore be grateful to have your commitment to working together across our teams (including working with the Police and community groups) to ensure that we have the best combination of resources to tackle disruption and community safety issues.

We'd like to invite you to a walkabout in Camden so that we can share our evidence base with you and discuss how we can work together to lessen these difficult impacts at Euston.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Georgia Gould".

Cllr Georgia Gould  
Leader of Camden Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sir Keir Starmer".

Sir Keir Starmer MP  
MP for Holborn and St Pancras