

HS2 Bulletin

Spring Bulletin 2019

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/hs2

HS2 community and business funds allocate £3 million to projects

More than £3 million has been spent according to Groundwork's annual review into the distribution of the HS2 community and business funds.

The Annual Report into the Community and Environment Fund (CEF) and the Business and Local Economy Fund (BLEF) provides an insight into the management of the £40 million funds which have been created to add benefit to communities along the route that are disrupted by the construction of the railway.

The second year of the funds' operation saw an increase in applications and awards, reaching over £3 million distributed in total over the two-year period.

In 2018/19 the funds supported 49 projects in the Greater London, Central and West Midlands, with nearly £2,982,100 in total awarded during the year.

The variety of awarded projects in urban and rural areas included the refurbishment of community play areas and community centres, support to improve health and

wellbeing, skills and employment, and the provision of business support in the first cohort of BLEF awards.

The average amount of funding during the year for awards under £75,000 was £48,701 and the average for awards over £75,000 was £346,552. Several small scale grassroots projects under £10,000 were also funded in addition to the local community projects of around £45,000 - £75,000 and a growing number of large scale projects delivered in partnership across multiple communities.

Link to report [here](#).



Villages begin to benefit

Ladbroke Village Hall in south Warwickshire is the latest Warwickshire project to benefit from HS2 funding.

The village has been granted £65,000 from the Community and Environment Fund to improve accessibility to the hall for the local community. The funding will provide an

accessible entrance to the building, disabled toilet and parking facilities, and allow the relocation of the kitchen to increase available space for activities.

Other Warwickshire projects to have benefited from this include Long Itchington Parish Council to improve the facilities for families at Long Itchington Park, Friends of Bodymoor Heath to modernise the facilities at the village's Victory Hall, and Kenilworth Town Council for the Kenilworth is Open for Business project which will provide a programme to promote the town.

Primary school safety workshops reach 50 schools

Playing it Safe, HS2's interactive health and safety workshop designed for primary schools, has visited more than 50 schools, teaching over 4000 pupils how to stay safe when living near construction sites.

HS2 Ltd appointed [Arc Theatre](#) to deliver the workshops along the Phase One route. The workshop uses drama to communicate the dangers present on construction sites and the surrounding areas, as well as the consequences of trespassing on those sites.

The message is to ensure that children understand the dangers that construction sites can pose and to emphasise the importance

of staying safe when living and playing near construction sites.

The workshop is available to Years 5 and 6 with audiences of between 30 and 90 pupils, with each session lasting between 60-75 minutes.

The workshop is completely free of charge, but limited and offered to schools closest to the route. If you would like your local primary school to take part in this workshop contact Nita@arctheatre.com or call **020 8595 8509**.



HS2 Woodland Fund

The HS2 Woodland Fund has re-opened for applications.

Interested parties can now apply for funding to support woodland creation within a 25-mile zone surrounding the HS2 phase one route. The fund is available to landowners to plant trees worth £8,500 per hectare as part of HS2 Ltd's environmental mitigation.

The HS2 Woodland Fund (HS2WF) opened on a 'first come, first served' basis in February 2018, with an initial budget of £1 million. A further £4 million budget is now available to be allocated to projects over the next four years.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/hs2-woodland-fund>



HS2 Ltd opens new northern centre

HS2 Ltd is expanding to open a new regional base in Manchester.

The company relocated its headquarters from London to the Midlands three years ago, and has now established a new office in Manchester city centre for its team covering the north of England.

HS2 Ltd said the northern base would help Transport for the North's ambitions for Northern Powerhouse Rail. It will enable the organisation to work closer on the delivery of both schemes.

Northern Powerhouse Rail services could use HS2 infrastructure – including the 13 kilometre Manchester tunnel to serve HS2 stations at Manchester Airport and Manchester Piccadilly.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hs2-ltd-opens-new-office-in-manchester>





County consents update

A total of 299 submissions for HS2 work within the county have been handled by Warwickshire County Council to date.

Highways work carried out by HS2 Ltd and its contractors is classed as "scheduled work" under the HS2 Act, giving HS2 the legal authority to carry out works.

The county council's role is to sign-off agreements consenting on how HS2 operates - for example, ensuring the free-flow of traffic and the safety of road users.

It is the HS2 contractor's responsibility to notify residents, businesses and road users of forthcoming works.

HS2's work in the county is currently focused on ground investigations and site preparation. The consents received and approved have been for a range of work including new accesses, lorry routes, temporary traffic management and flood and drainage work.

The construction of HS2 is authorised by the High Speed Rail (London to West Midlands) Act 2017. The Act grants planning permission for the works needed to bring the railway into operation.

Amongst other things, the Act authorises:

- the construction of significant works in the county

- the compulsory acquisition of significant amounts of land
- significant alterations to and interference with highway.

The deemed planning permission granted by the Act is subject to a number of conditions requiring the railway builder to obtain approval of Local Planning Authorities – Stratford DC, Warwick DC and North Warwickshire BC - along the route in respect of specified matters of detail relating to design and construction.

Residents who have any queries, comments or complaints on HS2 works should call the HS2 help line: **08081 434 434**.

Latest information can be found on HS2's local website <https://hs2inwarwicks.commonplace.is/> and HS2 traffic management information is live via <https://www.roadworks.org/>





Timetables

Expected Timetable for HS2 Phase 1

2018	Early Works
2019	Main Works start
2022-2026	Testing and commissioning of the railway
2026	Railway opening

Expected Timetable for HS2 Phase 2b

2018	Working Draft Environmental Statement (Autumn)
2020	Full Environmental Statement
2020	Deposit of Hybrid Bill
2023-2027	Building and testing of the line
2033	Railway opening

FOR MORE INFORMATION

High Speed Two (HS2) is the Government's proposal for a high speed north-south railway. The proposal is being taken forward by HS2 in two phases.

The focus of Warwickshire County Council's role on HS2 is to scrutinise the implications of the scheme and develop protection and mitigation for communities around planning, highways, traffic and transport, public rights of way, historic environment and ecology.

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Contact HS2 Ltd on: 08081 434 434 or minicom on: 08081 456 472

For complaints during construction phase, Independent Construction Commissioner Sir Mark Worthington can be contacted by email at: complaints@hs2-cc.org.uk

For individual concerns please contact Residents Commissioner Deborah Fazen by email at: residentscommissioner@hs2.org.uk