

## Greg Smith MP

12 October at 09:29 ·

I am appalled at the horrific behaviour of HS2 Ltd and their contractors in my constituency. Over the last few weeks we've seen both the villages of Calvert and Quainton left shaken, the former by the possession of Calvert Jubilee Nature Reserve and the later by the sudden arrival of enormous HGVs passing through on their way to a nearby works site.

Enough is enough. HS2 Ltd have failed on their promise to be a 'good neighbour'. I have written to HS2 Ltd's Chief Executive Mark Thurston to this effect, demanding that he get his act together and to stop the communities of north Buckinghamshire from being trampled without so much as a passing thought for their safety and welfare.

**Greg Smith MP**  
Buckingham Constituency

  
**HOUSE OF COMMONS**  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Mark Thurston  
Chief Executive  
High Speed Two Ltd  
Two Snow Hill  
Snow Hill Queensway  
Birmingham B5 6GA

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020

*Dear Mr Thurston,*

I am sure you will remember our conversation in August, in which I made my views clear that the persistent lack of due regard by HS2 Ltd for local communities in my constituency must be addressed as a matter of urgency. Over the past three weeks however, it has been proven yet again that there is in fact no respect for my constituents nor their local representatives.

The possession of Calvert Jubilee Nature Reserve stands out as one of the most disgraceful instances yet of HS2 Ltd tiding roughshod over its apparent 'good neighbour' approach. My constituents in Calvert and the surrounding area have been denied access to one of the largest and most popular outdoor attractions in Buckinghamshire, despite multiple assurances which your representatives have given me that only twenty per cent of the privately-owned land is needed for the project. Yet the frightening presence of National Enforcement Teams on site suggest otherwise – a fact not lost on my constituents, many of whom rely on Calvert Jubilee for regular exercise to maintain their mental wellbeing.

To make matters worse, despite waiting for a meeting with your representatives to clarify what you intend to do with Calvert Jubilee, I have still not received any type detailed plans. When work has commenced, trees felled, hedgerows ripped out, to be unable to provide a detailed plan of what your company is actually doing is totally unacceptable. I urge you to think about the very real impact that this grave omission is having on the daily lives of my constituents.

More recently, in the otherwise peaceful village of Quainton, my constituents have been taken aback by the sheer size of HGVs passing through on their way to a nearby 'Test Piling Site'. Until late last week, Quainton Parish Council received no word from HS2 Ltd or your contractors regarding when these immense vehicles would be present, thus giving them little to no time to prepare for the inevitable damage and disruption that these will cause. There can be no justification for this, and it is becoming increasingly clear that my concerns and those of my constituents are not being listened to by HS2 Ltd.

This was most clearly demonstrated during a joint working group meeting which I attended earlier this week, during which your contractors heard the many systemic issues which have manifested before and since I was elected – in the most part their response being "we'll take that away and get back to you". That is simply not good enough. Time after time Parish Councillors have been

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neglected in having their concerns and those of their residents addressed – this remains the case and further erodes any remaining hope that your organisation can get its act together.

I have had enough of this appalling behaviour. I urge you to make amends by establishing a permanent dedicated channel of communication between your senior representatives who are actually able to answer questions and make or authorise necessary changes, as well as your contractors and local representatives in affected communities. I also urge you to establish and maintain much closer coordination between your representatives and your contractors, so as to keep my constituents fully informed at all stages of construction and to not disregard them when plans change for whatever reason.

I will not stand by as my constituency is being permanently scarred without so much as a passing thought for the people and businesses of Buckinghamshire. Please come back to me with a detailed action plan as to how things will change.

Yours sincerely,



**Greg Smith MP**  
Member of Parliament for Buckingham