

MINUTES OF MEETING

HS2 and Anglian Water – Local Community Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 11 August 2026

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: Greatworth Primary School

Meeting convened by: Sarah Bool MP

Chair: Sarah Bool MP

1. Attendance

Local Representatives:

- Keith Simmonds – Chairman, Eydon Village
- Local community representatives and residents

HS2 / EKFB:

- Sam Arrowsmith
- Sean McCarthy
- David Griffith Allen
- Mark Wilde

Anglian Water:

- Sean McCarthy and representatives

2. Welcome and Introduction

Sarah Bool MP opened the meeting at 6.00 pm and outlined the purpose of the meeting, namely to address the ongoing disruption caused by HS2 works and Anglian Water infrastructure problems and to provide an opportunity for local communities to raise concerns.

3. Anglian Water – Current Water Supply Problems

Sean McCarthy apologised on behalf of Anglian Water for the disruption and inconvenience caused by repeated water leaks, bursts, loss of supply and associated road closures.

It was acknowledged that:

- The problems have been ongoing for a considerable period.

- The May Bank Holiday was a particular trigger point for the recent problems.
- Recent incidents have affected Greatworth, Sulgrave and other surrounding communities.
- Repeated loss of water has resulted in significant disruption to residents.
- Road closures associated with water infrastructure failures have added considerably to the problems.

Action: Anglian Water to improve communication with local communities and other organisations involved in the area.

4. HS2 – Progress Update

Sam Arrowsmith gave a presentation on the current HS2 construction programme across the county, from Turweston to Boddington.

It was reported that Mark Wilde had joined the team approximately 18 months ago with the objective of realigning and resetting the project.

The revised approach includes:

- Improving the handover between different stages of the project.
- Reviewing expenditure in greater depth.
- Ensuring that expenditure represents value for taxpayers.
- Improving overall project delivery and coordination.

The anticipated delivery of train services is currently scheduled for 2037–2039.

5. Greatworth and Chipping Warden Works

The meeting was advised that:

- The tunnel works at **Greatworth** are almost complete.
- The **green tunnel at Chipping Warden** is also approaching completion.

6. HS2 Programme of Works

The following anticipated dates were provided:

Location / Work	Anticipated Completion
B4525 (Welsh Lane) realignment	2028
Banbury Road reopening	Spring 2028

Location / Work	Anticipated Completion
Greatworth tunnel	Approaching completion
Chipping Warden green tunnel	Approaching completion

A full list of footpaths in the area is to be made available online and accessed via a QR code.

Action: HS2 to provide information regarding the online footpath system and QR code when available.

7. Local Roads, Closures and Communication

A detailed and, at times, heated discussion followed the HS2 presentation.

Residents expressed frustration that they had heard repeated explanations regarding the disruption but continued to experience problems with:

- Road closures.
- Potholes.
- Poor road surfaces.
- Unmaintained verges.
- Lack of adequate communication.
- Coordination between different organisations.

A proposal was made for **Mark Wilde, Sam Arrowsmith, West Northamptonshire Council and portfolio holder Richard Butler** to meet around a round table to consider practical measures to improve the situation for local residents.

Particular emphasis was placed on two key requirements:

COMMUNICATION and COMMITMENT

Action: HS2 and West Northamptonshire Council to consider arranging a joint meeting to address local road and communication issues.

8. Anglian Water – Future Infrastructure Investment

The meeting returned to the longer-term water supply situation.

Anglian Water acknowledged that it had not been sufficiently prepared for a second year of extreme heatwave conditions.

The meeting was informed that the infrastructure between the **Thorpe Lodge area and Peterborough** requires substantial realignment and upgrading.

An investment of approximately **£380 million** was outlined.

The work is expected to:

- Commence shortly.
- Be delivered over approximately three years.
- Improve the resilience of the water supply.

Anglian Water also apologised for inadequate communication with HS2. Both organisations agreed that communication and coordination between them must improve.

9. New Reservoirs and Replacement Pipework

The meeting was advised that:

- Two new reservoirs are being planned.
- Pipework around **Greatworth, Thorpe, Helmdon, Culworth and surrounding areas** is expected to be replaced.
- Future infrastructure investment is intended to improve the reliability and resilience of the water supply.

Action: Anglian Water to provide further information on the timetable for pipe replacement and reservoir development.

10. Future Housing and Population Growth

Concern was raised regarding whether future water infrastructure is being designed to accommodate anticipated population growth.

The following issues were highlighted:

- Future housing developments.
- Increased population.
- Additional pressure on GP surgeries and medical services.
- Increased demand on local schools.
- The forthcoming Local Plan, expected in January.
- Government-led housing and population growth requirements.

Action: Anglian Water to ensure future infrastructure planning takes account of anticipated housing and population growth.

11. Coordination and Accountability

Sam Arrowsmith stated his intention to bring together the various parties involved with HS2 in order to improve coordination and address local concerns.

Anglian Water also committed to improving:

- Communication.
- Pipe replacement and infrastructure.
- Planning for future growth.
- Coordination with HS2 and other relevant organisations.

It was emphasised that these commitments would need to be **monitored and held to account** to ensure that improvements are delivered.

12. Compensation

Compensation for disruption was discussed.

It was confirmed that compensation is available to eligible customers.

Note: A payment of **£140.00** has been received in respect of compensation.

13. Communities Not Represented

It was noted that a number of surrounding villages had not been represented at the meeting, including:

- Culworth
- Helmdon
- Thorpe Mandeville
- Eydon
- Moreton Pinkney
- Wappenham
- Syresham

It was agreed that these communities should also have an opportunity to raise their concerns.

14. Further Meeting

A further meeting is expected to be arranged:

- **Online:** towards the end of September 2026; **or**
- **In person:** at the beginning of October 2026.

Action: Sarah Bool MP's office will coordinate and arrange the further meeting.

ACTION POINTS

No.	Action	Responsible	Timescale
1	Improve communication regarding water failures and road closures	Anglian Water	Ongoing
2	Improve coordination between Anglian Water and HS2	Anglian Water / HS2	Ongoing
3	Provide information on HS2 footpaths and QR code	HS2	When available
4	Progress B4525/Welsh Lane realignment	HS2	By 2028
5	Progress reopening of Banbury Road	HS2	Spring 2028
6	Consider round-table meeting regarding roads, potholes, verges and closures	HS2 / WNC / Richard Butler	To be arranged
7	Provide further information on £380m water infrastructure programme	Anglian Water	To be confirmed
8	Progress replacement of local water pipework	Anglian Water	Within programme
9	Ensure future water infrastructure considers housing and population growth	Anglian Water / relevant authorities	Ongoing
10	Arrange meeting for villages not represented	Sarah Bool MP's office	End Sept./early Oct. 2026

15. Date of Next Meeting

To be confirmed.

Provisional arrangements are for an **online meeting towards the end of September 2026** or an **in-person meeting at the beginning of October 2026**, coordinated by Sarah Bool MP's office.

Meeting closed.