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## HS2 Select Committee Site Visit - 11 June 2015

Stoke Mandeville Parish Councillors and members of Stoke Mandeville Action Group welcomed David Lidington and the 4 Select Committee MPs to Stoke Mandeville on Thursday 11 June. They came to see for themselves how the HS2 rail line will impact on individuals and the local community across the Parish.

Stoke Mandeville was only part of the itinerary for the day but they managed to fit in five stops across the area to get a sense of the place, the people and the issues:

- Layby Farm (Goat Centre)
- Stoke House and Old Church
- Belmore Centre
- Booker Park School
- Oat Close, Hawkslade



*Select Committee MPs hear about local concerns at Stoke House*

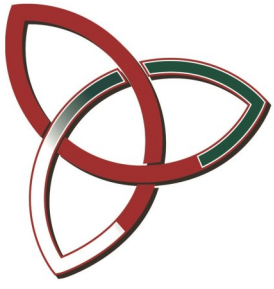
They heard about how HS2 will impact local businesses, farms, the village school and Booker Park school, the Old Church site, homes and people. Chairman of the Select Committee, Robert Sym was clearly impressed with the way the Parish Council and Action Group had worked pro-actively to develop solutions to local issues, such as the A4010 realignment.

Ian Mearns (Gateshead) spoke out in support of local schools, wanting to minimise the impacts upon all pupils and the local environment. Henry Bellingham (Norfolk North West) was surprised how close the rail line runs to homes on Hawkslade and was sympathetic to requests for better mitigation.

All Select Committee MPs and David Lidington were pleased to learn that local Councils and groups are working together to present a well-reasoned and professional case. One MP was heard to say about one proposal, "It seems a no-brainer - we need to catch low hanging fruit"



*David Lidington explained local concerns throughout the visit*



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## NOTES