

## Sir David Higgins meets with affected HS2 community groups

Christopher Pincher, Member of Parliament for Hints, Drayton Bassett, Swinfen, Freeford and Tamworth, last week hosted a meeting between local residents affected by Phase 1 of HS2 and the Chairman of HS2 Ltd, Sir David Higgins.

Sir David met residents from Swinfen, Packington and Weeford in Hints village hall then went on a tour of the route through the Bourne Valley and Drayton Bassett meeting local residents along the way.

Responding to the visit Mr Pincher said:

"This is the first senior board member of HS2 Ltd to come and visit our area to see firsthand the blight that the proposed high speed rail link will cause to hundreds of households living close to the Phase 1 line. To date there has been inadequate mitigation and compensation for the route which carves through virgin countryside and ancient woodland and I hope that Sir David's visit will ensure that much more help and support is provided to our local communities."

Sir David agreed to the visit the area with his team following intense lobbying from local MP Mr Pincher. Sir David promised to look closely at the mitigation requests tabled by residents in Swinfen, Flats Lane, Hints and Drayton Bassett and will be in touch again after the summer.

On 16th September Mr Pincher will also host a visit from the Parliamentary Select Committee charged with the detailed review of the proposed route. Led by its Chairman, Robert Syms MP, the HS2 Hybrid Bill Committee will see for themselves the areas affected by the Phase 1 proposals and meet affected residents, many of whom have already formally petitioned the Committee and will appear before it to make their case before the end of the year.

Phase 2 of HS2, which affects Stonydelph and Wilnecote to the south east of Tamworth and north Staffordshire, is at a much earlier stage of planning, will be dealt with separately.