



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

HIGH SPEED TWO

The Government has published High Speed Rail (Cm 7827), a Command Paper setting out its proposed strategy for a high speed rail line from London to the West Midlands, near Birmingham. The Command Paper seeks to explain the need for increased capacity and the reasons for choosing high speed rail, with the proposed route and, in the Route Engineering Study Final Report, the alternative routes considered.

This can be viewed at www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/pi/highspeedrail.

The Campaign to Protect Rural England has issued press releases and briefings with five tests for sustainable high speed rail which are on its website, www.cpre.org.uk.

The Buckinghamshire Branch of CPRE considers the effects resulting from all development proposals on the beauty and tranquillity of the countryside of Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Council and the communities and settlements across the area. News and information is on the website www.cprebucks.org.uk.

The proposed high speed railway line will have a significant visual and audible impact on the Chilterns AONB, the Vale of Aylesbury and the countryside in the north-west of the County. It is anticipated that it will cause disturbance to the residents of its towns, villages, hamlets, country houses and farmsteads wherever it passes in proximity to them.

CPRE Bucks Branch will in due course, and after detailed examination of the plans, make representations regarding all relevant aspects of the proposals. Representatives of Bucks Branch, together with other CPRE branches affected and CPRE National Office, met with Lord Adonis on 16th March and were promised that a full system of public consultation would start in October/November and that further mitigation of the effects of the proposal was indeed very much on the Government's agenda. The branches concerned are meeting with National Office specialists in April to discuss the strategy to be adopted. We are keen to develop a clear campaign strategy as soon as possible, to focus on the opportunities of re-routing outside the Chilterns AONB and on more extensive mitigation measures to reduce the adverse effects of whichever route is finally chosen.

CPRE Bucks will co-operate fully with other interested groups to achieve an outcome that is fair and reasonable for the whole county and takes account of environmental, social and necessary economic factors.

Membership of CPRE costs £29 for individuals and parish councils and application may be made on either CPRE website or by requesting an application form. Donations are welcome. Your friends and neighbours may be interested and please also let us know if you are able to help the Branch Executive Committee in organising CPRE's work.

CONTACT THE BRANCH regarding this circular by email to office@cprebucks.org.uk, or, write to The Secretary, CPRE Buckinghamshire, P O Box 219, Aylesbury, HP22 4 ED

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