

Newsletter

Spring 2020

CHARGE

Camden HS2 Association of
Residents' Groups for
Engagement

By and for residents affected by HS2 in Camden

This is the newsletter from the umbrella group helping coordinate the activities of the residents' groups and TRAs affected by HS2. Find out more and sign up for updates at chargegroup.org.

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The current covid-19 (coronavirus) crisis

We are all doing what we can to help the many people who have been badly affected by this virus.

If you know of any vulnerable elderly people around Euston who need support, please get in touch with the [Third Age Project](#).

Lifefterhummus Community Benefit Society is now providing coronavirus support for residents in St Pancras & Somers Town, Regent's Park and King's Cross wards, working alongside Somers Town Community Association and the Living Centre. You can get support, volunteer or donate [here](#).

Camden's Mobile Food bank is also operating out of the Living Centre. You can make referrals, including self-referrals, volunteer or donate [here](#).

The [London Irish Centre](#) is working with Camden to supply vulnerable residents with food and other support.

If you are self-isolating and you need someone to bring you shopping, prescription medicines or anything else, call Camden Council on 0207 974 4444 and choose option 9. You can also visit

[Camden's online directory](#) which will help you find a local VCS organisation who can help with everyday tasks you might be struggling with.

There is also a [Facebook mutual help group](#) with details of WhatsApp groups by ward. You can also ask the CHARGE representative who forwarded you this to put you in touch with someone who can help.

So far as you can, [please stay at home to reduce the burden on the NHS and save lives](#). The more we can comply with the guidelines, the quicker the government will be able to start to reduce the restrictions.

If you have symptoms, [please try to avoid infecting others](#).

Businesses can get more information on the help available [here](#).

HS2

HS2 has stopped nearly all of its work in Camden while it reviews whether it can continue in compliance with social distancing rules.

As you may know, the Government decided in February to continue with the first Phase of HS2, although it has decided to review the management around Euston. Demolition works were nearly completed before they were mainly stopped due to the covid-19 crisis.

Noise insulation

Only 375 residents (out of 1400 entitled to it) have so far had noise insulation installed. What is more, many of those have not yet received the ventilation system (Sonair) that they are entitled to. That will start to become a big issue after the main works start, as the weather gets warmer. If HS2-related works are too noisy for you to open your windows, you may find that your home becomes unbearably hot.

There are a number of Council properties including Amptill where HS2 is still working on a ventilation solution.

This has all been unacceptably slow. HS2 had an obligation to install the noise insulation in homes that would be affected by noise as soon as reasonably practicable. Because of its failure to do so, many people have needlessly been kept awake by Network Rail works related to HS2 down in the railway cutting north of Euston Station.

Euston

It is not clear what is going to happen with Euston station. The government has indicated its intention to review the current plans.

Lendlease

Lendlease agreed to design and develop a masterplan for the Euston site including Euston station and the approaches north of the station. We have heard that Lendlease has been frustrated by the lack of certainty and numerous delays. There have been rumours that Lendlease wishes to leave the project.

Complain to HS2

You can complain to HS2 via email at HS2inCamden.org.uk or Freephone 08081 434 434. You can get their attention by ensuring that there are formal complaints about the things that are bothering you.

Tips: please specify it is to be treated as a formal complaint. Please request that they take the complaint higher whenever you are not happy with their response. Eventually you can get it to the Chief Executive of HS2 and the Complaints Commissioner. Please send a copy to your CHARGE rep (listed on the last page) if you can, or the person who forwarded you this newsletter so they can pass it on, so we can keep track.

About CHARGE

CHARGE coordinates the activities of the various residents' groups and TRAs in Camden that are affected by HS2. It is currently chaired by Steve Christofi. The current representatives appointed by the residents' groups from each area are:

- Amptill – Fran Heron
- Camden Cutting Area East Side – Phebe Robinow/Christy Rogers
- Camden Cutting Area West Side – Luisa Auletta and Matt Hollier
- Drummond Street Neighbourhood Forum – John Myers
- Primrose Hill – Jeff Travers
- Regent's Park Estate – Steve Christofi and Ursula Brown
- Somers Town – Slaney Devlin
- South of Euston Road – Jo Hurford
- North Camden Group – Tony Connor

In addition, Camden Civic Society and the HS2 into London group are currently represented by Dorothea Hackman and by Mary Burd or John Neve.