**Petition Reference:** Yarlet Trust (Yarlet School)

**Lead:** Martin Wells

**Who Asked:** The Committee

**Question:**
The Select Committee asked that HS2 look into suitable alternatives for options to mitigate impacts on the School.

**Answer:**

“The Select Committee heard the petition of the Yarlet Trust on 18 June. The principal issue that was presented by the petitioner was their request for an alternative entrance for Yarlet School.

To support this request the Trust asked that HS2 Ltd prepare a report into the safety of the current practice of parents using the northbound carriageway of the A34 undertaking a U-turn at the Enson Lane and Whitgreave Lane junctions. This report was intended to cover the effects of increased construction traffic, and the Trust asked that it be presented to the Committee prior to the summer recess.

The Committee made clear that, rather than receiving a report, their strong preference was that the focus should be on a compromise solution. During the hearing the Committee also suggested that consideration be given to an option in the vicinity of the school's current entrance.

Taking that clear steer from the Committee, HS2 Ltd has prepared an alternative proposition which builds on one of the options already shared with the school. The attached plan shows the indicative alignment that provides a new access off the A34 just to the north of their current entrance, with the addition of a new gap in the central reservation to allow visitors to the school to safely turn directly to and from the northbound carriageway.

This option delivers all the benefits of the school's request with the added advantages that it:
- avoids the need for a 1km driveway across farmland to gain access to the local highway network, with the associated maintenance costs that would attract.
- avoids major works that would change the nature and appearance of a single track country lane;
- provides significant journey time savings for those on the northbound carriageway by removing the need to travel over 2km further to gain access via Enson Lane
- is estimated to be around half the cost to construct.

This option has been shared with both the Yarlet Trust and Staffordshire County Council as the Local Highway Authority and their formal views have been requested.

If the Committee feels that a new access for the school is necessary, we would be able to develop this option for inclusion within AP2.”