

## **Statement by the Chair of the Committee**

**23 March 2015, Committee Room 5, Palace of Westminster**

1. CHAIR: Good afternoon, welcome to the HS2 Select Committee. We continue with the Colne Valley area. Before we do that, there's a few decisions. Wormleighton is an isolated and tranquil area where the proposed line would have a noticeable profile, albeit mitigated by bunding. Petitioners have argued for a tunnel, but the remoteness of the area reduces traffic access, which would make spoil removal difficult and intrusive on the community. We have requested the Promoter consider whether there is an option for lowering the line in this area, whilst still accommodating the need to pass over the Oxford Canal.

2. We heard arguments for a longer tunnel at Greatworth. We concluded that a tunnel would not be justified, although the final decision on tunnel matters will be for our successor committee. We see a need for a roundabout in Greatworth, however, at the junction of the B4525 Welsh Road and the Dump Road. We see the need for a roundabout north of Chipping Warden, at the intersection on the A361 and the Welsh Road, to address safety concerns. We are keeping other matters in other areas under review, in particular the success of the Need to Sell Scheme.

3. On Thursday at 10.00 a.m. we will publish a report with some further interim decisions and observations. The Committee expect to reconvene in June, subject to the election results. The Clerk will publish a provisional programme in the meanwhile. Thank you. And we move on to our first petition of the day, which is Amy Paul, who has petition 1657 Pilot Centre Flying Club, 1672 Bickerton Aerodromes Limited and 1654 Amy Elizabeth Paul.