



Our Ref: SB19858

1 July 2022

Dear Andrew

HS2 Ltd. Viaduct Plan – Balsall Common, Coventry (Solihull MBC)

As you are aware, HS2 Ltd. has recently produced designs relating to the Balsall Common viaduct, which has attracted significant opposition from the local communities of Balsall Common and Berkswell, including the local Parish Councils, in my Constituency.

I am concerned that HS2 Ltd. have failed to provide design options for consultation with the local community for the Balsall Common Viaduct as promised to the House of Commons Transport Select Committee.

The basis for my opposition to the design of this viaduct is that HS2 Ltd have:

- failed to take account of the suggestions from local Councillors, residents and Parish Councils;
- failed to meet their commitment given in Parliament to offer alternatives; and
- treated Balsall Common as second class as compared with the plan for a viaduct in the Colne Valley

I am aware that local Councillors, residents and Parish Councils will be formally objecting to any planning application put forward by HS2 Ltd, unless HS2 Ltd honour the commitments given in Parliament with regard to the design of this viaduct.

To resolve this issue, I would like HS2 Ltd. to provide realistic options for the design of the Balsall Common viaduct as promised, and that those options should form the basis of a new consultation with the local community. Any design options for Balsall Common area should be as favourable as those granted for the Colne Valley Viaduct.

With Kind Regards

Saqib Bhatti MBE MP
Member of Parliament for Meriden