

## [News story: HS2 Phase One Community Information Events 2017](#)

We invite you to attend one of our informative events about the High Speed Two (HS2) project and what it means for your local area.

During the events, there will be experts available to explain the technical aspects of topics such as ground investigations, environmental impacts, construction, land and property compensation and assistance schemes for people affected by the line of route, as well as information about [our community funds](#).

We hope you will take this opportunity to talk to the project team, view maps, ask us questions, and learn more about the construction and design of the new railway.

We'll be updating this page regularly once the times and dates of planned events are confirmed.

### **Current and future events**

Date	Area	Venue	Time	Theme
Thursday 13 April	Handsacre	Armitage Village Hall, 51 Shropshire Brook Road, Armitage, Rugeley, WS15 4UZ	3pm to 7pm	Community, construction, engineering, property, environment, utilities
Tuesday 18 April	Steeple Claydon	Steeple Claydon Village Hall, Queen Catherine Rd, Steeple Claydon, Buckingham, MK18 2PZ	3pm to 7:30pm	Community, construction, engineering, property, environment, utilities

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## [News story: HS2 Phase 2a information events 2017](#)

We are holding a number of information events, to share all the latest details about our plans for building and running the new railway.

You'll be welcome to discuss any of this new information with us, including:

- the 3 Phase 2a route changes we consulted on last year and recently confirmed

- how you can track what's happening with the Phase 2a bill as it goes through Parliament
- assistance available to property owners

Date	Venue	Time
Saturday 12 August	Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Eastgate Street, Stafford, ST16 2LT	11am to 5pm
Wednesday 16 August	Whitmore Village Hall, Coneygreave Lane, Whitmore, ST5 5HX	2pm to 8pm
Wednesday 23 August	The Madeley Centre, New Road, Madeley (near Crewe) CW3 9DN	2pm to 8pm

Past events will be removed as new events added on a regular basis.

The section of HS2, known as Phase 2a, will extend the high speed line from the West Midlands to Crewe, and provide reduced journey times further north by connecting to the West Coast Main Line at Crewe.

It will open in 2027, 6 years earlier than planned, bringing benefits to the North of England sooner.

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## [News story: PHE annual conference 2017: bookings open](#)

Public Health England's (PHE) annual conference takes place at Warwick University on 12 and 13 September 2017.

The [PHE annual conference](#) brings together over 1400 participants from a wide range of organisations, to learn, and share knowledge and experience to help improve public health.

This year's conference focuses on 3 key themes across the programme:

- promoting world-class science and evidence
- making the economic case for prevention
- working towards a healthier, fairer society

Key note speakers at this year's conference will include:

- Nicola Blackwood MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health and Innovation
- Sir David Spiegelhalter, Winton Professor of the Public Understanding of Risk at Cambridge University
- Professor Dame Margaret Whitehead, WH Duncan Professor of Public Health, University of Liverpool

- Dr Jennifer Dixon, Chief Executive at The Health Foundation

[Abstract submissions](#) are invited in work that clearly link to one or more of the conference themes, introducing new ideas, research findings and advances in public health practice and outcomes.

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## **Press release: PM meetings in Saudi Arabia: 4 April 2017**

The PM and the Saudi Minister of Energy, Khalid al Falih, discussed working together on energy policy, including energy diversification, as well as investment opportunities for small and medium businesses on the London Stock Exchange and in the UK.

In a second meeting, the Prime Minister and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Nayyaf, Minister of the Interior, discussed a range of issues including the shared threat posed by foreign fighters returning from Syria, and dangers posed by extremist material on the internet.

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## **News story: Highways England highlights dangers faced by road workers**

Les Bramwell was walking along the pavement after routinely assessing repairs to a pothole on the A50 near Stoke-on-Trent when he was struck by a car last April (2016).

The 65-year-old was left with serious injuries and says it's a miracle he wasn't killed.

Nearly a year on, he has only just had a neck brace removed and is only now able to drive again.

The case was highlighted as it was revealed 12 road workers, including two traffic officers, have lost their lives on the network over the past 10 years. In three of the cases the victims were knocked down by members of the public.

Meanwhile, over the past 10 years, workers have been injured by motorists on

more than 50 occasions. Seventeen of those incidents involved workers on foot.

And since May there have been around 150 recorded incidents each month of vehicles encroaching onto sites where work is taking place.

Today Mr Bramwell joined Highways England in urging drivers to take extra care around roadworks and observe speed limits.

Mr Bramwell said:

I want to highlight to people the dangers of our job.

Something that should have been a routine task has had a serious impact on my life, and that's why it's so important that we educate motorists about the dangers of the work we do day in, day out.

Highways England Midlands Regional Director Catherine Brookes said:

Nobody needs a road so badly that somebody needs to lose their life while maintaining or improving it; it is my absolute priority that people go home safely at the end of every day.

It is simply unacceptable that people run the risk of being killed or seriously injured while doing their job. While we can't eliminate risk on the road network we need to do our utmost to protect the lives of both drivers and road workers.

And motorists need to slow down near road works and obey speed limits and signs. Think what it would be like if you had to contend with lorries and cars driving through your shop, office or school.

Mr Bramwell was working for Highways England contractor Kier as an Asset Incident Watchman and had been assessing repair work as part of his day-to-day duties.

As he returned to his van, parked at a nearby petrol station, a car left the dual carriageway, mounted the pavement and ploughed into him from behind.

CCTV footage shows the car travelling behind an HGV which slows down as a car in front turns into the petrol station. At that point the vehicle behind the lorry can be seen mounting the pavement and hitting Mr Bramwell. He was taken to hospital with a broken neck and a leg broken in three places.

Mr Bramwell went on to say:

I had to sleep downstairs for six months because I couldn't go upstairs, It's been a massive strain on my family and I've had my confidence taken away.

Everything has been turned upside down. Although my injuries mean I will spend at least a year in recovery, I could have been paralysed or worse – lost my life.

Mr Bramwell, from Penkridge, Staffordshire, who has been in the job for more than nine years, is a married father-of-two with four young grandchildren. He was based at Kier's Doxey depot off the M6 in Stafford with colleague Matt Wyse before the incident.

Mr Wyse, from Hednesford, said:

I've always been aware of the dangers – working on the roads, our lives are in the hands of others – but you can never predict what may happen. I urge drivers to look out for road workers as they drive through roadworks.

Following the incident a 70-year-old man admitted driving without due care and attention and was fined £105, costs of £85 and a victim surcharge of £30 and given three points.

Highways England is committed to making the road network a safer place to use and work on and has a goal of reducing the number of people killed or injured to as close as possible to zero by 2040.

It is reminding drivers that just because workers aren't visible, it doesn't mean they are not present. This is especially true when operations take place at night, but also applies when visibility is restricted by works vehicles and equipment.

Highways England has adopted a [health and safety five year plan](#) and procedures for its workforce are constantly under review.