

HS2AA at the Tory Party Conference - 2012

HS2 Action Alliance have a strong presence at this conference with a stand plus our own fringe event on the Monday morning. This is a summary of how things have gone so far.

HS2AA Stand

This has been very busy and people have been very supportive. In fact the vast majority of people - both party members and councillors are against HS2 and are concerned by the extremely weak business case and that DfT assumptions cannot be trusted following the WCML debacle.



Fringe events

We had an excellent fringe event called **TIME TO THINK AGAIN** on Monday 8th October with a good attendance. The panel - Dan Hannan MEP, Rt Hon Cheryl Gillan, Allister Heath editor City AM (chair), Martin Tett and Jerry Marshall put forward the arguments and took a range of questions.



There wasn't a strong presence from the pro campaign this year although there was significant activity on twitter during and after so perhaps they just didn't make themselves known!

HS2AA representatives have attended a number of transport fringe events and spoken out about HS2 engaging with MPs and the transport industry.

Secretary of State's speech

Patrick McLoughlin spoke on Transport on the Monday and although he spoke about "cracking on with HS2" the reception from the floor was no more than lukewarm. He mentioned that the Y route would be announced "soon" so no new news there.

Our reaction to his speech, given by Tom Crane was,

"Of course, we are disappointed that Patrick McLoughlin is unwilling to review the fatal flaws in the HS2 business case, the irreparable damage the line will do to the environment and wants to plough on regardless. We would have thought that a project with a cost of £33 billion to tax payers would have at least warranted a proper review when the DfT is so clearly unfit for purpose following the WCML franchise fiasco."

“Our Conference event – Time to think Again - this morning was well attended, including Martin Tett, leader of Buckinghamshire County Council, Daniel Hannan, MEP and Allister Heath, Editor City AM. We are finding more and more support from those who have reviewed the details of the HS2 business case and will continue to push for a fundamental review of the business case alongside the five judicial reviews that are being heard in December”.