

Responses from the Mid-Buckinghamshire candidates

Wisdom Da Costa, Climate Party

"The High Speed Rail (London-West Midlands) Act 2017 may have been passed by Parliament on the basis of strategic misrepresentations and the deliberate dumbing down of the projected costs of HS2.

These cost estimates were at best complete fantasy and at worst may be considered fraudulent, meaning that the sovereignty of parliament was effectively negated. This has deprived public services of 30 billion pounds of funding; destroyed the lives or livelihoods of up hundreds of local people and businesses; caused environmental damage on a scale not seen since WWII.

I will cooperate with others to bring forward further evidence on the scale and extent of this scandal to identify those responsible and, to seek appropriate redress for local people and businesses."

Greg Smith, Green Party

"As an MP, I would use my influence to empower local groups, ensuring that their concerns are heard and addressed. Local residents and businesses have a role in minimising ongoing damage and disruption. This involves monitoring heavy vehicles, managing chaotic road closures, and ensuring that HS2 delivers on its environmental commitments to nature recovery.

HS2 is failing short on its promise to restore wildlife refuges, nature reserves, and ancient woodlands. By galvanising local people into action and harnessing HS2 resources, we can hold them to account.

I would also push hard for a public inquiry to understand how such a significant public project could be so badly mismanaged. Gaining insight into these failures will help us avoid similar mistakes in future."

Greg Smith, Conservative

"I'm a total opponent of HS2. I fight them every single day, in the Commons, on the Transport Select Committee and dragging Ministers and HS2 Ltd execs to Buckinghamshire.

I've exposed the shameful acts HS2 Ltd think they can get away with. From endless closures of the A413 and Nash Lee Road, drainage issues, lorries tearing up our local roads, draining streams for water. No one should be expected to live with this or looking to the future, operational noise from the trains. I've heard Wendover HS2 Mitigation Action Group's concerns and am ready to go into bat.

Effective challenge of HS2 requires persistence, detailed analysis and unflappable patience. That's what I have done – and pledge to continue to do."

Stephanie Harwood, Reform UK

No response received.

Yvonne Wilding, SDP

"The HS2 project was ill-conceived and should never have been initiated. I would insist that all work on the current stage of the project is completed on schedule, to the necessary standards – ensuring strict controls on any further damage to the natural habitat. The contractual commitment to landscaping and environmental repair and enhancement, already factored into the project, must be completely fulfilled, and should remain a ring-fenced spending priority.

No milestone payments should be made to the contractor until those impact environmental mitigation measures are delivered to the Wendover residents' satisfaction. Both the Liberal Democrats and the Labour Party talk of revisiting the second stage of the project which was cancelled. I would oppose this vigorously."

Carissma Griffiths, Labour

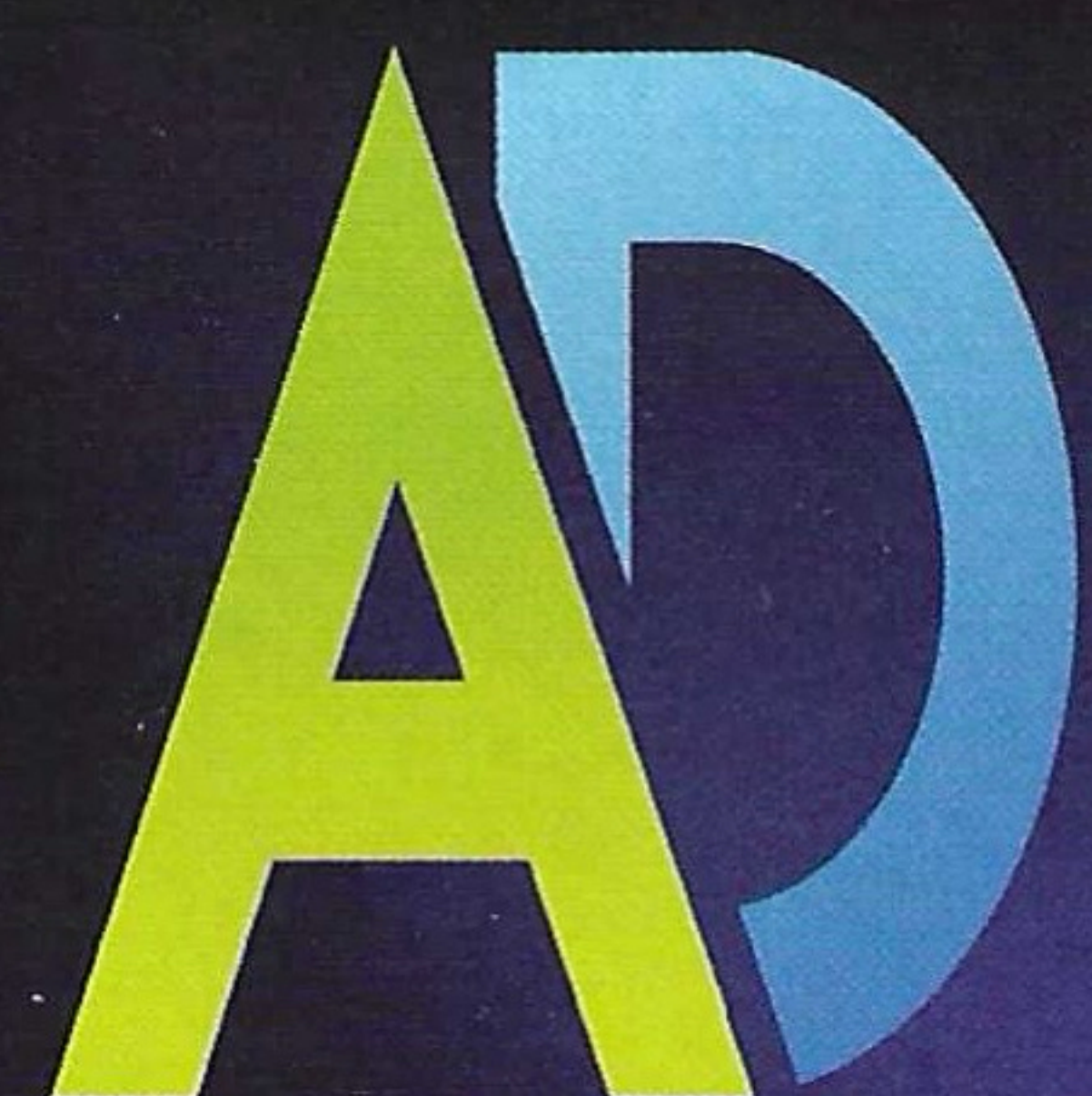
"It's clear that HS2 has caused unforgiveable damage to this beautiful area and now – with its journey north suspended by the Government – all credibility for the economic case has been lost. As your MP, it would be my job to try to ensure the physical scars from this project are healed.

If elected I would take the interests of our community to the heart of government, advocating on behalf of local opinion and interests. But also, I would work with the relevant agencies, tiers of government and build on my experience in the construction sector to salvage something from this terribly managed project. Something good must come from this. I will work with this community to make sure it does."

Anja Schaefer, Liberal Democrats

"As MP for Mid Buckinghamshire, holding HS2 to account would have top priority for me. Following the example of Sarah Green, Lib Dem MP for Chesham & Amersham, I would raise HS2 oversight in parliament and committees wherever possible, and I would seek regular meetings with the construction company and with local stakeholders.

I would focus on specific issues, such as mitigating noise and disruption, nature protection, eg water management and habitat restoration, and returning high quality assets to communities after construction. Wendover is one of the communities particularly badly affected and I would seek to work closely with Wendover HS2 Mitigation Action Group and other local activist groups to make sure communities are given a voice during and after construction."



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