

Report on Meeting with MP Sarah Bool – Anglian Water & HS2

Greatworth Primary School – 11 August 2026

On Tuesday evening, 11 August, Keith Simmonds, Chairman of Eydon Village, and I attended a meeting convened by our MP, **Sarah Bool**, at Greatworth Primary School. The presentation began at 6:00pm and was chaired by Sarah Bool. The HS2 team was represented by **Mathew, Sean McCarthy, Sam Arrowsmith**, and **David Griffith Allen**, along with members of **EKFB**.

Anglian Water

Sean McCarthy opened by apologising for the ongoing disruption caused by repeated leaks, bursts, and unsustainable water supply issues. He acknowledged the significant inconvenience to residents, noting that although the May Bank Holiday incident was a trigger point, problems have continued throughout the summer—Sulgrave this week, Greatworth the previous week, and so on. These failures have resulted in repeated loss of water and numerous road closures.

HS2 Update

Sam Arrowsmith delivered an excellent and detailed presentation on the current HS2 construction progress across the county, from Turweston to Boddington. He explained that **Mark Wilde**, who joined the project 18 months ago, has been instrumental in realigning the programme and resetting delivery expectations, with a strong focus on taxpayer value.

Key updates included:

- **Train delivery and service now projected for 2037–2039.**
- **Greatworth Tunnel** and the **Chipping Warden Green Tunnel** are nearing completion.
- **B4525 (Welsh Lane)** scheduled for realignment by **2028**.
- **Banbury Road** expected to reopen in **Spring 2028**.
- A full map of local footpaths will be made available online via QR code.

A heated discussion followed, covering familiar concerns. I proposed that **Mark Wilde, Sam Arrowsmith, West Northants Council**, and portfolio holder **Richard Butler** meet around a round table to explore practical ways to support constituents—improved services, repaired roads, pothole management, verge maintenance, and a more coherent system for road closures. The essential themes were **communication** and **commitment**.

Anglian Water – Further Detail

Attention then returned to Anglian Water. Their representatives admitted they were unprepared for a second consecutive year of extreme heat. The **Thorpe Lodge to Peterborough** supply route requires complete realignment, with **£380 million** allocated for upgrades. Work is expected to begin shortly and will be delivered over a **three-year programme**.

They also apologised for poor communication with HS2, and both organisations committed to improving collaboration going forward.

Additional points:

- Two new reservoirs are in planning.

- All pipework around **Greatworth, Thorpe, Helmdon, Culworth**, and surrounding villages is scheduled for replacement.
- Concerns were raised about future housing growth, increased population, surgeries, and schools. Anglian Water confirmed they are aware of the forthcoming **Local Plan**, expected in January, which will outline future development and government-driven expansion.

Sam Arrowsmith intends to bring together all parties involved with HS2 to ensure coordinated progress. Anglian Water pledged improvements in communication, infrastructure renewal, and capacity planning. They will need to be held accountable for these commitments.

Compensation has been promised; I received **£140** into my account today.

Future Engagement

All villages—**Culworth, Helmdon, Thorpe Mandeville, Eydon, Moreton Pinkney, Wappenham, and Syresham**—were not included in this initial meeting. We are scheduled for an **online meeting at the end of September**, or an **in-person meeting at the beginning of October**. Sarah Bool's office will coordinate these sessions.