

IN PARLIAMENT
HOUSE OF COMMONS
SESSION 2005-06
CROSSRAIL BILL

Against – on Merits – Praying to be heard by Counsel, &c.

To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Parliament assembled.

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF THE GREAT WESTERN ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

SHEWETH as follows:-

1 A Bill (hereinafter referred to as “the bill”) has been introduced and is now pending in your honourable House entitled “THE CROSSRAIL BILL”

2 The Bill is promoted by Cross London Rail Links Limited. The Preamble to the Bill recites that the main purpose of the Bill is to secure the powers necessary to build Crossrail.

3 Our objection is to the proposed compulsory purchase and destruction of the allotments referred to in the parliamentary plan 126, as land parcels 156 & 157.

4 Your Petitioners are THE GREAT WESTERN ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION, a group formed in 1987 with the aim to encourage, organise and promote the use of various local allotment sites. The Association is responsible for the letting and management of the allotments referred to in parliamentary plan 126, as land parcels 156 and 157.

5 Your Petitioners and their interests are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioners object for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.

6 The petitioners object to this compulsory purchase on the following grounds
The Noel Road Allotments site is classified as Community Open Space in the Unitary Development Plan, and provides essential green space for local people. It encourages the local production of fruit and vegetables, and provides a green respite from the pressures of urban living.

The site is well used, and all available plots are currently worked by local people, growing a wide range of produce. Bee-keeping takes place on the site and is important to the area as a whole, as it provides the only hives within a 3 mile radius.

The site acts as a green corridor for wildlife. A small bluebell wood, with at least 10 species of trees and shrubs, as well as many other wild plants occupy its northern corner. Members of the GWAA have counted at least 25 species of wild birds on the site, as well as hedgehogs, bats, field mice and voles.

The allotments provide a place where local people can come together. The current plot holders have representatives from at least four ethnic communities.

The Crossrail plans to compulsorily purchase this site and use it as a building materials store would deprive the local west Acton community of a valuable resource.

7 GWAA propose that the Bill is amended to avoid the destruction of the allotment site referred to as plots 156, 157 on the plan for the reasons cited in section 6. The Petitioners have identified alternative sites that could be used for the Diveunder general storage area that will not impact on the local community, such as the sidings to the east of Noel Road Bridge know as Acton Yard.

For the foregoing and connected reasons your Petitioners respectfully submit that, unless the Bill is amended as proposed above, so far affecting your Petitioners, should not be allowed to pass into law.

YOUR PETITIONERS therefore humbly pray your Honourable House that the Bill may not be allowed to pass into law as it now stands and that they may be heard by their Counsel, Agents and witnesses in support of the allegations of this Petition against so much of the Bill as affects the interests of your Petitioners and in support of such other clauses and provisions as may be necessary or expedient for their protection, or that such other relief may be given to your Petitioner in the premises as your Honourable House shall deem meet.
AND your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.