

HOUSE OF COMMONS
SESSION 2005-06

CROSSRAIL

PETITION

Against the Bill – 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 MARK GREGORY SMITH AND KATHARYNE EMMA
MOIR-SMITH**

SHEWETH as follows:-

1. A Bill (hereinafter called "The Bill") has been introduced into and is now pending in your honourable House entitled "A Bill to make provision for a railway transport system running from Maidenhead in the County of Berkshire, and Heathrow Airport in the London Borough of Hillingdon, through central London to Shenfield in the County of Essex, and Abbey Wood in the London Borough of Greenwich; and for connected purposes".
2. Clauses 1 to 20 set out the Bill's objectives in relation to the construction and operation of the railway transport system mentioned in paragraph 1 above. They include provision for compulsory acquisition, planning permission, heritage issues, trees and noise. Clauses 21 to 44 of the Bill establish a regulatory regime for the railway transport system and clauses 45 to 59 of the Bill deal with miscellaneous and general provisions.

3. The works proposed to be authorised by the Bill are specified in Schedule 1 to the Bill and the scheduled works are defined in the Bill as the works specified in Schedule 1 to the Bill which are works authorised to be constructed by the nominated undertaker (defined in the Bill and hereinafter referred to as "the nominated undertaker").
4. Your Petitioners are Mark Gregory Smith and Katharyne Emma Moir-Smith of 53 Friars Avenue Shenfield in the County of Essex. This is a semi-detached house and occupied by your Petitioners Mark Smith and Katharyne Moir-Smith for over eight years. We have two young children who reside here.
5. Your Petitioners' house in Friars Avenue backs onto the site of the proposed works to the West of Shenfield Station. According to the Environmental Statement deposited with the Bill, residents of Friars Avenue will be significantly affected by noise and or visual impact to the extent that some residents may be eligible for insulation or even rehousing. Your Petitioners will be so affected in part due to the fact that their insulation, although costly and seemingly effective at the time of installation and renewal, is now considerably out-of-date and extremely ineffectual in dealing with the impending noise from the Crossrail work.
 - (a) Your Petitioners' house is located on a road which will, according to the Environmental Statement deposited with the Bill, be used as a route for construction vehicles coming to and from the work sites at Shenfield Station and your Petitioners will therefore be affected by increased noise and traffic congestion outside their house. Friars Avenue is likely to be used by motorists as an "extra car park" for the other car parking areas, mainly because the Promoters will have commandeered the official car parks in the area for their own use for the foreseeable future.
 - (b) Your Petitioners make extensive use of their garden and are responsible for two young children all of whose welfare will be adversely affected by the rise in noise levels and in the increase

in atmosphere and visual pollution created by the proposed works and the subsequent increased train services.

- (c) The normal day-to-day sounds from the railway and station will be considerably increased due to the doubling of the service from twelve trains to twenty four per hour, together with proposed increase in hours of operation.
 - (d) Your Petitioners are extremely concerned regarding any possible subsidence as they already experience movement of the house when certain trains go by and this is likely to increase considerably as the new (sixth line) will be closer to their property and more trains will be passing.
6. Your Petitioners' and their rights, interests and property will be injuriously affected by the proposals in the Bill to which your Petitioners object for the following reasons:
- (a) The Crossrail Bill has already caused devaluation/disruption to properties close to the Railway Station and this will continue and worsen, if and when works proceed, due to the huge disturbance, noise, vibration and pollution by the engineering works.
 - (b) There is no justification for the proposed terminus to be placed at Shenfield in the heart of a desirable residential area because of the obvious lack of its viability, Your Petitioners understand that there will only be a total of five minutes less time on the rail journey between Shenfield and Heathrow compared with what pertains at present. This Project has already been described as "one of the costliest rail projects seen in decades."
 - (c) The Promoters should be required to take more seriously the very real problems that will be caused by the loss of some 200-300 car parking spaces in the short and long term car parks. Users will be forced to seek alternative parking facilities when shopping and commuting.

- (d) If approved, this project will cause a long period of detrimental change to the area, in addition to the huge disturbance, noise, vibration and air pollution during the continuation of the work, seriously affecting the quality of life for most residents, particularly retired and elderly folk and those with children.
- (e) The Promoters' Environmental Paper is completely wrong in describing the townscape as of a moderate quality, ignoring the quality of Hutton and Shenfield and its surroundings. It understates the importance and quality of the Hutton Road shopping area and how continually busy this retail area is, seven days a week. Indeed it fails to mention how close to the work site are the busy Petrol Station, Junior School and the Group Doctors Practice immediately adjoining the Station and commuter car park.
- (f) There are little or no benefits for Shenfield and experts tell us that this scheme is likely to inhibit the semi-fast non-rush hour train service, as well as freight trains, due to the proposed use of the slow lines by the Promoters' trains.
- (g) The Promoters have failed to provide adequate consultation as to the damaging effect upon Shenfield and we the Petitioners have only recently seen the Promoters' Environmental Paper, following a Public Meeting hastily called by Brentwood Borough Council. The Promoters' Environmental Paper is a comprehensive report including the details of individual houses that will suffer the most from noise and pollution, even some requiring rehousing on a temporary basis. Such detail was not made known by the Promoters at their presentation in Brentwood and only came to light via the meeting called by the Council on 2nd June at Hutton Poplars. Many residents would never have been aware of this detail. It would be relevant to ask the question "why were the people who will be affected by this Bill (if it is approved) not sent the Environmental Paper for Shenfield by "the Promoters" direct?"

The full impact of their proposed work should have been made clear much earlier.

7. Your Petitioners believe that the Promoters have failed to prove any real need for the Crossrail Service or the Terminus at Shenfield, nor does the Project seem to prove that all this proposed work is viable from business and economic viewpoints.
8. Your Petitioners believe that as South Essex is already well served with an efficient fast rail service that the Promoters should endeavour to locate the Crossrail Terminus in the East London area. The ideal Terminus should be located at Stratford where existing services are already in place and connections have proved satisfactory. This would be more economic and less damaging to suburban housing areas, as well as avoiding the enormous disturbance that residents will undoubtedly suffer.
9. Your Petitioners wish to state that in the event of this Bill being passed with a Terminus at Shenfield Station, the Promoters should be required to pay proper compensation to the Petitioners for the loss of value to their property brought about by the planning blight and the proposed works should your Petitioners wish to sell and move elsewhere during the period between now and after completion of such work by the nominated undertaker and the commencement and use of any Crossrail Service. The Promoters should also be required to bear the full cost of soundproofing your Petitioners' residence due to the greater intensity of noise and disruption expected during the Crossrail development and subsequent use of any Crossrail Service, plus any possible subsidence or other structural damage that may arise from that development to your Petitioners' residence.
10. There are other clauses and provisions in the Bill which, if passed into the law as they now stand, will prejudicially affect the rights and interest of your Petitioners and other clauses and provisions necessary for their protection and benefit are omitted therefrom.

YOUR PETITIONERS THEREFORE
HUMBLY PRAY

your Honourable House that the
Bill may not pass into law as it
now stands and that they 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 property, rights, and
interests of your Petitioners and
in support of such other clauses
and amendments as may be
necessary and proper for their
protection and benefit.

AND YOUR PETITIONERS will ever
pray, &c.