

HOUSE OF COMMONS
SESSION 2005-2006

CROSSRAIL BILL

PETITION

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 Eleanor St Travellers All Residents Group.

SHEWETH as follows:-

1. A bill (hereinafter referred to as 'the bill') has been introduced and is now pending in your honourable House intituled '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 the Shenfield, in the County of Essex, and Abbey Wood, in the London Borough of Greenwich; and for connected purposes.'
2. The Bill is promoted by the Secretary of State for Transport (herinafter called the 'Promoter')

Relevant Clauses of the Bill

3. Clause 6 (Acquisition of land within limits shown on deposited plans)
4. Clause 7 (Acquisition of land not subject to the power under section 6(1))
5. Schedule 5 (temporary possession and use of land) and Schedule 6 (Acquisition of land shown within limits on deposited plans)

Your Petitioners

6. Your Petitioners are an association of the residents of Eleanor Street Travellers site. This group represents three generations of Traveller families who live on the official Travellers site at Eleanor Street in Bow, which is managed by London Borough of Tower Hamlets. The site accommodates 19 families. The majority of families have lived on this site since it was opened in 1982. Eleanor St Travellers All Residents Group was established in Sept 2003.
7. Your Petitioners and their rights, interests and property are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioners object for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing

Your Petitioners wish to raise the following objections and concerns

8. The Promoter proposes as part of the works to construct a ventilation shaft at Eleanor Street (as indicated on Sheet No. 46, Volume 2 of the deposited *Plans and Sections*).
9. We are not satisfied as to the reasons why Eleanor St has been chosen for the location of the ventilation shaft. We wish to request a detailed response from the Promoter to the alternative locations for the shaft as proposed by the residents of Eleanor St Site and others. We have not been convinced that the Promoter has thoroughly explored all alternatives in order to avoid the displacement of 19 families from our homes.
10. We the residents of Eleanor St caravan site want to continue to live our traditional way of life in caravans and with our community. We do not want to move from where we are living and we do not want to be relocated either for a temporary period or permanently. We want to ensure that our caravan site remains available, so that the future generations of Travellers from our community have somewhere to live.
11. The Traveller community have been resident on the site at Eleanor St for 23 years. It was opened in March 1982. Much of the newer developments of housing and businesses have been built more recently.
12. There will be an enormous impact on our community if we are moved from Eleanor St. It will be very stressful for us psychologically, particularly for the older generation. Since living in Eleanor St we have not experienced the usual prejudice and discrimination faced by Travellers elsewhere. We have great anxiety that if we have to be moved we will be faced with these issues. We believe that moving will cause a

breakdown of our community and we do not want to face an uncertain future for our children.

13. The Traveller community living at Eleanor Street have integrated with the local community. Our children attend local schools, both primary and secondary. We are well established with the local services such as local doctors and the local parish churches. There are a number of residents with medical needs and disabilities who also attend local hospitals on a regular basis. We have very strong relationships with our local neighbours, which has been built up through the years. Some of the younger Travellers are now married to members of the settled community.
14. We feel as a community that the consultation by both the Promoter and LB Tower Hamlets has been extremely poor. We were not informed about the proposed plans for a ventilation shaft at Eleanor St. We had to request meetings with the Promoter and were not finally consulted until after the second round of consultation was completed. We feel this has left us in a disadvantaged position.

Conclusion

15. Your Petitioners submit that, in the respects mentioned and in other respects, the Bill fails adequately to safeguard and protect the interests of your Petitioners.

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 property, rights and interests and in support of other such 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.

Eleanor St Traveller All Residents Group