

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 JEAN DORIS AUSTIN AND FRANK AUSTIN

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 Jean Doris Austin and Frank Austin of 47 Friars Avenue Shenfield in the County of Essex. This is a semi-detached house and occupied by your Petitioners Jean and Frank Austin who are both disabled and have occupied the house for fifty years. There are no other residents there.
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their insulation, although costly and seemingly effective at the time of installation and renewal, is now considerably out-of-date and extremely ineffectual in dealing with the impending noise from the Crossrail work.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) 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.

(c) 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.

(d) If approved, the project will cause a long period of detrimental change, seriously affecting the quality of life for many people. The noise from the siding at the bottom of this garden may well reduce the value of the house. In other words, it would be impossible to move before and during construction and obtain a fair price for the house. The Petitioners would be forced to endure whatever inconvenience that this Project would involve during construction and suffer loss of amenity and value of the house and garden when the project is in operation.

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) 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 six minutes less time on the rail journey between Shenfield and Heathrow compared with the position at present. The Project has already been described as "one of the most expensive rail Projects seen in decades."

(b) More serious note should be taken regarding the loss of approximately 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.

- (c) If approved, this Project will cause a long period of detrimental change to the area in addition to much disturbance, noise, vibration and pollution during the continuation of the work, seriously affecting the quality of life for most residents, particularly retired and elderly folk.
 - (d) There are little or no benefits to Shenfield rail users and we are told that this scheme may well reduce the fast trains to London due to the proposed use of the slow lines by Crossrail trains.
7. Your Petitioners believe that as South Essex is already well served with an efficient and fast rail service that the Promoters should endeavour to locate the Crossrail Terminus in the East London area. The Terminus should be located at Stratford where existing services are already in place and connections have proved satisfactory. This would be less damaging to housing and more economic.
 8. Your Petitioners believe that the Crossrail Terminus at Shenfield is not justified both in business or economic terms.
 9. Your Petitioners believe that the Promoters should endeavour to locate the Crossrail Terminus at Stratford as Shenfield is well served with an efficient and fast railway service. This would be more economic and less damaging to this suburban housing area as well as avoiding serious disturbance that residents will undoubtedly suffer.
 10. 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 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.

11. 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.