

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 Southend Arterial Road Action 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 to 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 Department for Transport. The Preamble to the Bill recites that the main purpose of the Bill is to secure the powers necessary to build Crossrail.
- 3 The main clause of the Bill under which the objection is made is 1 (1) (b) and (c):  
clause 1 “Construction and maintenance of scheduled works”  
section (1) “The nominated undertaker may construct and maintain the works specified in Schedule 1 (“the scheduled works”), being –”
  - (b) “works for the construction of other railways in the London Boroughs of (inter alia) ... Havering...”
  - (c) “works consequent on, or incidental to, the construction of the works mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b).”

The specific area of objection is the proposed new temporary site access road for construction of the Gidea Park stabling sidings. This is referred to generally in section 10.14 “Route Window NE11: Gidea Park Stabling” of the Crossrail Environmental Statement, and specifically in paragraphs 10.14.13-16, 10.14.23, and 10.14.46. Proposed activities for this route window are detailed in the Crossrail document “Chapter 12 Route Window NE11 Gidea Park stabling sidings”, and the proposed activities objected to by your Petitioners are specified in paragraphs 12.15 to 12.20 of this document.

- 4 Your Petitioners are the Southend Arterial Road Action Group, an association of the residents of 114-148 Southend Arterial Road, the owners of the 18 properties directly and specially affected by the use and alteration of the existing road for the proposed new temporary site access road.
- 5 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.
- 6 Your Petitioners object because at present this is a narrow, no through access road for residents, visitors and deliveries only, leading off the A127 trunk road. Residents, their children and pets would be endangered by the proposed access for heavy vehicles passing within a few feet of their front gardens.
- 7 Your Petitioners also object because under the proposed arrangements there would be no parking facilities for residents’ cars or safe access to their homes.

- 8 Your Petitioners also object because under the proposed arrangements there is no provision for access by service vehicles (e.g. for refuse disposal), utilities, or emergency services for residents. Crossrail vehicles could block these service vehicles and vice versa.
- 9 Your Petitioners further object that widening and strengthening the road surface of the cul-de-sac could cause many problems. There is potential risk to the house foundations, water supply, gas and electricity supplies and drains if this road is modified for heavier traffic. These houses are built on land that was originally pasture with several natural ponds and wet areas.
- 10 Your Petitioners also object that the proposal could cause flooding. This road has problems with excess surface water already, especially the private access to numbers 114, 116 and 118. If most of the area indicated on the plan is to be a solid heavy road surface, this would lead to heavier flooding. By covering the grassed areas as part of the new road, the natural drainage into the soil will disappear. The surface of the cul-de-sac road is over 1.2 metres lower than the A127, which also slopes downward from the railway bridge towards Gallows Corner. This deflects water from the pavement beside the A127, down into the grassed areas in the cul-de-sac.
- 11 Your Petitioners further object that widening the cul-de-sac to accommodate larger vehicles is not a workable solution. HGV's, low-loaders etc. cannot negotiate a tight hairpin bend, which also has a significant gradient. Widening the road on the inside of the bend as proposed will not make it more negotiable.
- 12 Your Petitioners further object that under the current proposal, noise and air pollution would reach unacceptable levels. Traffic volumes on the A127 at this point are over 3000 vehicles per hour at off-peak periods. At present, the noise of the traffic on the A127 is largely screened by the row of hawthorn trees. These trees are specifically mentioned as a requirement in the original land deeds with the Parrish Building Company. Removal of these trees would mean that there would be a continual noise nuisance from traffic on the A127, in addition to the new noise levels from heavy traffic passing so close to residents' homes, and would mean also a significant local increase in air pollution from both roads. Some residents are night workers and need to sleep by day.
- 13 Most of the above concerns could be mitigated by using an alternative access proposal discussed at the House of Commons on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2005 at a meeting between your Petitioners, members of the Crossrail team, and Andrew Rosindell, MP. For the foregoing and connected reasons your petitioners respectfully submit that, unless the Bill is amended as proposed above, clauses 1 (1) (b) and (c), 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 property, rights and 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.