

IN PARLIAMENT  
HOUSE OF COMMONS  
SESSION 2005-6

CROSSRAIL BILL - ADDITIONAL PROVISION

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 BARBARA WHEELER and TONY WHEELER.

SHEWETH as follows:-

1. An Additional Provision to the Crossrail Bill (hereinafter referred to as “the Amendment of Provisions Bill”) has been introduced and is now pending in your honourable House intituled “An Additional Provision to the Crossrail Bill - Ham and Wick Lane Sewer diversion to allow the moving of the Ham and Wick Sewer to accommodate 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 Secretary of State for Transport (hereinafter called “the Promoter”).
3. Your Petitioners are the owners of a property at 1 Baldock Street, Bow, E3. The house is close to works for the proposed HAM and Wick Lane sewer diversions and directly alongside one of the proposed worksites. Other worksites planned in the vicinity will also directly affect our daily life.
4. 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.
5. The public consultation has been inadequate. Your Petitioners received a leaflet with an outline description of the Wick Lane to Payne Road Utility Diversion plans. The leaflet is unclear and, as always, leads to a need for much more research. On a detailed point, the map on the leaflet is too small for residents to see if they are specifically affected. The labelling is also unclear and leads the reader to mistakenly believe the Revised Worksites replace the Original Worksites, whereas in fact the Revised Worksites are in addition to the Original Worksites.
6. The worksite at the eastern end of Wrexham Road, which the Promoters vaguely call “open space adjacent to Baldock Street” will be directly alongside our house, extending the full length of the house from back garden to front garden. The worksite will be surrounded by a 3.6 metre high hoarding which will be only 2 metres from our main bay window. It will cut out light to our main living room and be a visual intrusion for months.

16. The amended proposals for the HAM and Wick Lane sewers have occurred at the same time as plans and funding for park improvements. The Promoter's plans undermine all the progress made so far and make proceeding pointless. There is no guarantee that the goodwill of all who have invested time and energy in planning, or the funding which is currently available, will still exist when the Promoters have gone.
17. Your Petitioners object to plans to cut down trees in the park. The young cherry trees and false acacia trees, which the Promoters may need to cut down, have only established in recent years. What the Promoter describes as an over-mature cherry tree stands out as a tree of age and character in that part of the park. To the Promoter they are obstacles to be removed, but they are not easily replaced; a mature tree cannot be replaced. Your Petitioners believe some of the magnificent avenue of mature London plane trees might also be put at risk from the movement of heavy lorries by compacting the ground around their roots.
18. The Baldock Street worksite will have lorry access and egress directly off the A12. Conifer trees will have to be removed to allow 20-30 lorry movements a day on to the site but there is no mention of this in the Promoter's literature.
19. Your Petitioners feel the Promoter is underestimating the disruption to traffic on the A12 caused by their worksites. The northern worksite on the A12 will occupy the central reservation and 3 lanes of carriageway. The southern worksite will occupy 3 lanes. The Baldock Street worksite is accessed and exited via the A12 and may need 1 lane coned off. Even if some of the work is done at night, worksites cannot disappear in the day and reappear at night. In normal conditions traffic is at a near standstill for extended peak times. Any further disruption will result in even worse congestion and higher concentrations of pollutants from car exhausts.
20. Your Petitioners are given to understand that sewer diversions need to be completed before tunnelling for the railway. If the new sewer route will take 22 months to complete and this time is added to the 7 years for the Crossrail work itself, your Petitioners are concerned that in order to meet the deadline of 2013 the Promoters will have to extend working hours. They will be more likely to use the powers they have given themselves to extend working hours if they so wish. Therefore, statements made now about working times are no assurance for the future.
21. Your Petitioners feel that the combination of rail tunnelling and sewer tunnelling, running at approximately 90° to the train tunnel, must increase the likelihood of settlement. We are also concerned that minimum tolerances have been employed. The rail tunnels have a vertical deviation of plus or minus 3 metres. The rail tunnel at Wrexham Road is 15 metres below the surface; this could be in reality 12 metres. The sewer tunnel at the same point is drawn at 11.5 metres deep. This tunnel has a diameter of 2.9, making the lowest point 14.4 metres. This could, at best, leave as little as 60 cms between the two tunnels or at worst the tunnels could collide by an overlap of 2.4 metres.
22. In the Promoter's original plans for the sewer diversion the proposed pumping station was to have capacity large enough to cope with extreme flood situations. Does the newly proposed gravity sewer tunnel have the ability to cope with extreme flood conditions?

YOUR PETITIONERS therefore humbly pray your Honourable House that the Additional Provision 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.

Barbara Wheeler  
Tony Wheeler

