

IN PARLIAMENT
HOUSE OF COMMONS
SESSION 2013-14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON - WEST MIDLANDS) 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 Anne Margaret Ling

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 between Euston in London and a junction with the West Coast Main Line at Handsacre in Staffordshire, with a spur from Old Oak Common in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham to a junction with the Channel Tunnel Rail Link at York Way in the London Borough of Islington and a spur from Water Orton in Warwickshire to Curzon Street in Birmingham; and for connected purposes."
- 2 The Bill is presented by Mr Secretary McLoughlin, supported by The Prime Minister, The Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, Secretary Theresa May, Secretary Vince Cable, Secretary Iain Duncan Smith, Secretary Eric Pickles, Secretary Owen Paterson, Secretary Edward Davey, and Mr Robert Goodwill.
- 3 Clauses 1 to 36 set out the Bill's objectives in relation to the construction and operation of the railway mentioned in paragraph 1 above. They include provision for the construction of works, highways and road traffic matters, the compulsory acquisition of land and other provisions relating to the use of land, planning permission, heritage issues, trees and noise. They include clauses which would disapply and modify various enactments relating to special categories of land including burial grounds, consecrated land, commons and open spaces, and other matters, including overhead lines, water, building regulations and party walls, street works and the use of lorries.
- 4 Clauses 37 to 42 of the Bill deal with the regulatory regime for the railway.
- 5 Clauses 43 to 65 of the Bill set out a number of miscellaneous and general provisions, including provision for the appointment of a nominated undertaker ("the Nominated Undertaker") to exercise the powers under the

Bill, transfer schemes, provisions relating to statutory undertakers and the Crown, provision about the compulsory acquisition of land for regeneration, reinstatement works and provision about further high speed railway works. Provision is also made about the application of Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.

- 6 The works proposed to be authorised by the Bill (“the Authorised Works”) are specified in clauses 1 and 2 of and Schedule 1 to the Bill. They consist of scheduled works, which are described in Schedule 1 to the Bill and other works, which are described in clause 2 of the Bill.
- 7 Your Petitioner Anne Margaret Ling is the freehold owner and sole occupier of 11 Lower Road, Higher Denham, UB9 5EA. Your petitioner is a pensioner suffering from osteoporosis, who has worked hard for most of her life to earn the privilege of living in this idyllic, unique and delicate natural haven less than 20 miles from central London. Your Petitioner’s property overlooks the Green Belt and is adjacent to the River Misbourne, a globally rare chalk stream which your Petitioner and several experts believe could be endangered by the Promoter’s project. In retirement, your Petitioner’s life revolves around volunteering and raising funds to protect the local environment, and is able to achieve this by using the excellent existing local network of public transport.

Your Petitioner is, and will be, personally and directly affected by the Promoter’s project in the following ways:

Your Petitioner is struggling following the death of her partner, and further distressed by the likely effects of the Promoter’s project on the local environment, whose many benefits your Petitioner has enjoyed for 30 years.

A recent survey carried out by the Chiltern Conservation Society showed that 90 per cent of those surveyed are suffering adverse effects upon their health and wellbeing. Your Petitioner requests that Stress and Anxiety Clinics are set up, with specialist counsellors to help your Petitioner and other people come to terms with what they have lost.

- 8 Your Petitioner’s rights, interests and property are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your petitioner objects for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
- 9 Your Petitioner’s property is in close proximity to the A412 North Orbital road, which will be used intensively by heavy good vehicles from the major construction compound adjacent to Old Shire Lane, and satellite compounds in Denham and Harefield. This will cause severe traffic congestion. Works traffic from Martin-Baker, the engineering company, sited at the dead end of Lower Road, Higher Denham, already backs up Old Rectory Lane trying to get on to the A412, necessitating traffic lights at peak periods. Your Petitioner uses the 581 bus most mornings. This service will be subject to severe delays, caused by the congestion in Old Rectory Lane and Tilehouse Way. Your

Petitioner also makes frequent use of the 331 bus service, which will be caught in congestion twice: at Denham and Harefield. Suffering from osteoporosis, a progressive fragile bone disease, your Petitioner will suffer from waiting around in the cold, and the inevitable diminution of local bus services on which her daily life depends.

Your Petitioner therefore requests that a tunnel be constructed under the Colne Valley, to replace the planned viaduct, in order to protect this valuable area of Green Belt from the various planned construction camps. This will also reduce the risk of localised flooding and would save considerable mitigation costs.

Secondly, your Petitioner requests that the Promoters pay for Martin-Baker to build a link road from their plant to the A413, which would make Old Rectory Lane safer.

Thirdly, your Petitioner requests that Old Rectory Lane is widened, making it safer for cars to pass.

Fourthly, your Petitioner requests that the Promoter's traffic should be prevented from using Old Rectory Lane.

Finally, your Petitioner requests that the Promoter provides shuttle buses to local hospitals, which are given automatic right of way.

The water table is so high in Higher Denham that your Petitioner's sewerage backs up frequently, and Old Rectory Lane often floods several feet deep for half a mile. Your Petitioner's property is only 16 metres from the River Misbourne. According to your Petitioner's regular monitoring of the Higher Denham section of the river, the Misbourne's all time high water level recorded on 14th February 2014 was twice the previous highest level recorded by your Petitioner in 2001. The Environment Agency do not monitor the water levels in this part of the River Misbourne but their nearest highest level recordings in the River Colne were similar. Although the Environment Agency supplied their highest flood figures recorded in 2001 to the Promoter for use in their Environment Statement in November 2013, they did not supply the much higher figures for mid February 2014 in their response to the Environmental Statement at the end of February 2014, which would have enabled the Promoter to recalculate this new higher flood risk level. Your Petitioner believes that this is a serious oversight by the Environment Agency and is extremely concerned that her garden could regularly flood, and the water even ingress the house, if the Promoter's project is allowed to go ahead in its present form.

Your Petitioner is also concerned about the possible contamination of local drinking water.

Therefore, your Petitioner requests that the groundwater measurements are re-calculated on the current February 2014 all time high recordings to be supplied by the Environment Agency; that regular monitoring is installed in the Higher Denham section of the River Misbourne immediately as many

dwellings in Lower Road are adjacent to the River Misbourne; and that adequate funds are set aside for necessary remedial work and road resurfacing, when required.

Your Petitioner repeats the point that a tunnel under the Colne Valley would greatly reduce the risk of localised flooding.

Your Petitioner is a keen rambler, regularly taking walkers/backpackers on the Old Shire Lane Historical Circular Walk to study the ancient hedgerows and listen to the rare skylarks and corn buntings which breed in the area immediately north-west of Denham. Old Shire Lane is one of the most popular local rambling routes, and your Petitioner believes that the Promoter's project will destroy its unique atmosphere permanently.

Your Petitioner requests that the promoter erects an information board commemorating Old Shire Lane, the ancient hedgerows and the rare birds that could be found before the construction took place.

- 10 There are other clauses and provisions of the Bill which, if passed into law as they now stand will prejudicially affect your Petitioners and their rights, interests and property and for which no adequate provision is made to protect 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 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.

Signature of Petitioner

IN PARLIAMENT
HOUSE OF COMMONS
SESSION 2013-4

HIGH SPEED RAIL
(LONDON-WEST MIDLANDS)
BILL

Anne Margaret Ling

AGAINST, By Counsel, &c.

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