

IN PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF COMMONS

SESSION 2013-14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON – WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

Against – on Merits – 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 DAVIES OF GREAT MISSENDEN

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, Mr Robert Goodwill.
- 3 Objection is taken to the works to be undertaken within the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and in particular to works 2.13 to 2.27 (listed in Schedule 1 of the bill) in the parishes of Little Missenden, Great Missenden, Chartridge and The Lee, and to the clauses of the bill which would authorise these works.

- 4 Your Petitioner is a business located in Great Missenden. The business comprises a Post Office, a newspaper delivery service, and seller of stationary and general preserves.
- 5 Your Petitioner and their rights, property and interests are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioner objects for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.

Specific Concerns

- 7 Your Petitioner is gravely concerned about the inadequacy of measures proposed to mitigate the effects of construction traffic throughout the AONB, and in the Misbourne Valley in particular, that are scheduled to last for more than 7 years and more than 3.5 years at their peak
- 8 Your petitioner believes that transport disruption in and around the proposed construction area will have a serious adverse impact on the business as follows:
 - Customers are drawn from the areas of The Lee, Lee Common, South Heath, Potter Row, Hyde End and Pednor. The construction works would seriously reduce ease of access via Frith Hill and the surrounding country lanes, as well as causing hold-ups on the A413. It is anticipated on the basis of many years trading experience that customer footfall will be drastically reduced if customers do not have prompt and easy access to the business premises as a result of such works.
 - Newspaper deliveries constitute an important part of the business, and in this 'time is of the essence'. Wholesalers must deliver newspapers in a narrow time window, and your Petitioner must then distribute the newspapers to surrounding AOBN properties very shortly thereafter. Delays due to construction work and construction traffic would have a serious adverse effect; if customers do not receive their delivery before leaving for work (many are commuters into London), they quickly cancel them. Once lost, such business is very difficult to regain.
 - The Post Office business has a contractual duty to open at a specified time each morning and the proprietor requires that two members of staff are present at opening. (This is to avoid the risk of robbery, which has been a significant problem locally.) Any delay in opening caused by staff being held up in traffic delays due to congestion and construction traffic renders the proprietor liable to lose the Post Office contract, with a catastrophic effect upon the business.

- 9 Your petitioner requests that the business be protected from these effects by ensuring that the line passes throughout the AONB in a bored tunnel, either as proposed by **Chiltern District Council**¹, or as proposed by the **CRAG T 2 Tunnel**², the latter having been accepted by HS2 Ltd in the Environmental Statement as both feasible and environmentally preferable to the proposal in the Bill. This would substantially mitigate the adverse effects objected to in this petition.
- 10 Your Petitioner contends that a bored tunnel throughout the AONB would be a cost effective means of avoiding the risk of damage to your petitioners business.
- 11 Your petitioner also requests that the nominated undertaker be required to mitigate the remaining nuisances, by amending the Code of Construction Practice and funding its enforcement by the Local Authority, to strictly apply the following measures –
1. Constructing new roads to access the trace directly from the A413, and prohibiting the use of all existing minor roads in the AONB by construction traffic
 2. Restricting HGV movements to the period 09:30 – 15:30 throughout the AONB, and prohibiting HGV Movements along school routes for 30 minutes before and after the start and end of the school day (during term time).
 3. Operating a 'Park and Ride' scheme to transport construction workers along the trace, and enforcing this by not providing parking for contractors at the construction compounds.
 4. Constructing such facilities as may be necessary to remove excess spoil from the AONB by rail, so avoiding the creation of the spoil dump at Hunts Green.
- 12 For the foregoing and connected reasons your Petitioners respectfully submit that, unless the Bill is amended as proposed above (to remove the works noted in paragraph 3 from the schedule) so far affecting your Petitioners, should not be allowed to pass into law.
- 13 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, property and interests and for which no adequate provision is made to protect your Petitioners.

¹ High Speed Rail in the Chilterns: Feasibility Study of Alternative Tunnelling Options. Peter Brett with OTB Engineering Ltd and Beazley Sharpe (Railwise) Ltd. April 2014

² <http://www.thelee.org.uk/HS2%20storage/Proposals%20for%20the%20Chilterns%20Tunnel%20Extension%20Dec%202013.pdf>

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 person



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AGAINST, By Counsel, &c.

Ms K A Davies

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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