

IN PARLIAMENT  
HOUSE OF COMMONS  
SESSION 2014-2015

**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 Robert Haynes and Greta Rose Haynes

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.

Clauses of the Bill

- 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 Petitioners are the owners of a property in Helmdon Road, Greatworth which will be adversely affected by the construction and operation of the project outlined in the Bill. Furthermore, the Petitioners' rights, interests and property are injuriously affected by the Bill to which your Petitioners object for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
- 8 SUMMARY: Your Petitioners have numerous concerns related to noise, light, dust, vibration, visual impact, proposed mitigation, location of the Greatworth Satellite Compound, traffic issues, working hours and compensation, and the impact of HS2 when it is up and running. These concerns are detailed below.
- 9 Your Petitioners are concerned about -noise levels during construction. The promoters consider that noise mitigation is not-necessary where average noise levels are below 50 decibels. Your Petitioners believe that regardless of decibel levels as claimed by the promoter, noises such as jack hammers, H.G.V. lorries, earthmoving equipment, drilling equipment etc. will be additional and intrusive from those normally experienced and will interfere with the normal peace and tranquillity of Helmdon Road residents. Your petitioners request that before any construction work is started all houses in Astral Row and Helmdon Road within 400 metres of the nearest construction activity are fitted with (FOC) replacement triple glazing of a mutually agreed quality. This will help those petitioners such as ourselves for whom increased noise levels will provoke sleep disruption
- 10 Your Petitioners are concerned that the latest proposed height of HS2 track by the Promotor will produce unacceptable noise levels,

unacceptable vibration and unacceptable visual impact for residents in Helmdon Road and the residents in the north end of Greatworth. At the time the green tunnel was proposed, the height of the line and the length of the green tunnel offered reasonable mitigation to the Petitioners and those living nearby. However in January 2012, the design was changed including raising the height of the line by 8 metres and as a result, the green tunnel had to be shortened.

Your Petitioners believe that reverting to the previous line height and the previous green tunnel length, would reduce significantly many of the concerns of noise, vibration and visual impact. Thus, your Petitioners request that the height of the line and the length of the green tunnel revert to the pre-January 2012 design or an alternative design that would match or exceed the resulting mitigation so that they can be shielded from much of the on-going operational effects.

- 11 Your Petitioners are concerned with the dust contamination to residences in Helmdon Road. From their past local experience during the construction of the M40 and the Middleton Cheney bypass, inadequate damping down has created problems. To mitigate dust problems on local houses we request the Promoters pay for monthly window and car cleaning during construction.
  
- 12 Your Petitioners are concerned about the impact of the proposed Greatworth Satellite Compound located just outside the village. Your Petitioners believe that the open space and Public Rights of Way will be subjected to intense construction activity and will be seriously affected by noise, vibration and dust. There will also be severe visual impacts for the Residents of Greatworth, particularly those living in Astral Row and Helmdon Road. It will make teaching more difficult for the staff and pupils of both Greatworth Primary School and Greatworth Pre-School and reduce enjoyment for users of the open space and Public Rights of Way.  
Your Petitioners are concerned about the visual impacts of the Greatworth Tunnel portal buildings and the Greatworth auto transponder. As shown on the Zone of Theoretical Visibility maps accompanying the Environmental Statement, the construction activity and the operational use of the railway will be visible from your Petitioners' property and from public Rights of Way regularly used by your Petitioners. Your Petitioners request that along with reducing the line height to the original level of 8 metres lower, the Greatworth Auto Transponder is moved to the northern side of the green tunnel therefore much of the noise and visual impact issues would be mitigated.

- 12 Your Petitioners request that the Greatworth Satellite Compound be moved further from the village. However, should it be decided not to relocate the Compound, your Petitioners request that the effects of noise, dust and vibrations both during construction and operation are minimised. Furthermore, your petitioner requests that noise, dust and vibration monitoring equipment is installed at Greatworth (suggested sites are the primary school and either Astral Row or Helmdon Road) for the duration of construction, and a monitoring programme agreed with South Northants District Council. If monitoring shows that any of the noise, dust or vibration thresholds are exceeded, works should stop immediately until appropriate mitigation can be installed to bring it within the thresholds.
- 13 Your Petitioners are concerned about the impact of construction workers accessing the Greatworth Satellite Compound site and the impact this will have on the local road network. As up to 235 workers are expected to work from the site during 6 years of construction and projected construction traffic of 280-400 cars/LGVs plus 160-240 HGV journeys per day for 54 months, your Petitioners are concerned that increased traffic will produce additional risk, create significant congestion and increase pollution in the surrounding area. Your Petitioners request that all construction traffic, HGV, LGV and workers associated with the construction of HS2, use specified routes avoiding passing through the village of Greatworth and that this be strictly enforced.
- 14 Your Petitioners object strongly to the working hours set out in the draft Code of Construction Practice. During construction of the green tunnel, the Bill allows work to continue 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. Your Petitioners and other residents of Greatworth will be subjected to non-stop exposure to noise, dust, lighting and vibration from the construction work. This could continue for many years and may result in long-term sleep deprivation or sleep disruption as well as reduced enjoyment of simple things such as sitting in the garden. Your Petitioners request that construction working hours be reduced to avoid night-time work and curtailed in the evenings and weekends.
- 15 Your Petitioners object to the inadequacy of the compensation scheme. The property of the Petitioners has clearly been devalued due to the proximity of the high speed rail line, as has their enjoyment of their ideal house location that will be blighted with the advent of HS2. However, they are not entitled to compensation under the current scheme as their property is 400-450 metres from the centre of the line and therefore outside the 300 metres limit for compensation. The Petitioners question why they should accept this reduction in their

personal wealth and request that compensation be paid to any property owner who can demonstrate a devaluation in their property directly as a consequence of this Bill. Additionally your petitioners request that they should be paid compensation for being subjected to the continuous noise, dust and light pollution during construction. That they should be paid compensation for the inconvenience of having local roads closed and the additional travelling time incurred directly as a consequence of this Bill. That they should be paid compensation for having to suffer the ongoing noise pollution when HS2 is in operation. That they should be paid compensation for losing their stunning views and peaceful setting because of HS2. Your Petitioners are now 67 years old and knowing their possible life expectancy, should not be asked or expected to endure a life of misery before they die, taking into account they have worked hard to put into place what they thought would be a peaceful and idyllic retirement. They expect to be properly compensated. Your Petitioners request that a suitable compensation to cover the above would be £75,000 bearing in mind that your Petitioners moved house in 2007 after considering many options over a 3 year period to find their ideal retirement location. Your Petitioners request that if they decide to sell their property in Helmdon Road

A – If it sells for an amount below the 2007 level plus an increase in housing value since that date HS2 will compensate for the difference.

B – If the house does not sell because of the blight of HS2. HS2 will purchase the property at the 2007 value plus the increase in the housing value since that date.

### Conclusion

- 16 For the foregoing and connected reasons your Petitioners respectfully submit that, unless the Bill is amended as proposed above, so far affecting your Petitioners, the Bill should not be allowed to pass into law.
- 17 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.

Robert Haynes

Greta Rose Haynes

NICHOLS PART  
AGENT ON BEHALF OF MR & MRS HAYNES.

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BILL

PETITION OF Robert Haynes and Greta  
Rose Haynes

AGAINST, By Counsel, &c.

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