

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 NEVIL ANDREW ELTRINGHAM COULSON

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 The Petitioner is a resident of Ballinger village (a small rural village about ¾ mile from the proposed HS2 route), who will be greatly affected by the construction of HS2 as currently proposed. The Petitioner passes daily or more often down Ballinger Road and Frith Hill to reach Great Missenden.
- 8 Your Petitioner his rights, interests and property are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioners object for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
- 9.1 Your Petitioner is concerned that the bored tunnel proposed terminating at Mantles Wood is not sufficiently long enough to mitigate the potential noise and visual impact on your Petitioner's property and community. Your Petitioner requests that the **bored tunnel should be extended** from Mantles Wood to just north of Wendover, that is under the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This measure will obviate the need for several of the petitioned proposals below (and not least address most of the environmental objections to the proposals).
- 9.2 Your Petitioner is concerned about the impact of construction traffic on Frith Hill, which links the villages of South Heath and Ballinger to the A413 and to Great Missenden. Frith Hill is not suitable for construction traffic because it is very narrow and twisty and passes through a residential area which does not even have a pavement. The HS2 track crosses this road. The total disruption of this area and the increased traffic will have an intolerable effect upon residents in the immediate area of the crossing and on the villages using this road.
- 9.3 Your Petitioner is concerned that during the construction period the villages of Ballinger and South Heath will be effectively cut off from their nearest town which is used for everyday shopping, social activities, medical appointments and numerous other purposes. The alignment and design of any alternative route must be agreed with the local community and the local highways authority in order to minimise landtake and ensure it is appropriate for the location. When the road is no longer required for construction traffic your Petitioner requests that it should be reinstated to the former land use.
- 9.4 Your Petitioner requests that all construction traffic is fully prohibited from using Ballinger Road, which commences at the crossroads in South Heath to minimise impacts on the area and, in particular, the impact of construction vehicles.
- 9.5 Your Petitioner is concerned about the impact of the construction and operation of a high speed railway and its associated development including but not limited to construction compounds, storage compounds, construction compounds and new road construction. Your Petitioner requests that the nominated undertaker is subject to binding mitigation measures to mitigate the

impacts of the above works. These binding mitigation measures should include but not be limited to restrictions on noise, dust, vibration, construction hours, vehicle movements, operating hours, design of structures. Monitoring compliance with these restrictions and enforcement of these restrictions

Your Petitioner requests that binding mitigation measures should include traffic management plans to be agreed between the nominated undertaker, the relevant local authority and the relevant highway authority to be monitored and enforced by environmental health officers

- 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.

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