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IN PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF COMMONS

SESSION 2013-14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON – WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

PETITION

Against the Bill – 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

Richard Howard

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 ("Phase One of HS2") 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 and Schedules 2 and 3 to the Bill.

7 Your Petitioner is the owner of the following property which is located in the London Borough of Hillingdon.

2, Charlton Close, Ickenham, UB10 8BW

8 Your Petitioner alleges that himself and his property, rights and interests would be injuriously and prejudicially affected by the provisions of the Bill if passed into law in their present form and he accordingly objects to the Bill for the reasons, amongst others, hereinafter appearing.

Introductory

9. Your petitioner considers that the Environmental Statement did not adequately assess the impacts on Ickenham roads, schools, employment, ecology, air quality, local services, emergency services, drainage and flooding. It was prepared with great haste and the most adverse effects were never discussed at Community Forums.

10. HS2 Ltd refused to engage in discussion to mitigate the adverse impacts on Ickenham. Even with the intervention of our local MP in September 2013 HS2 Ltd refused to meet with your petitioners to discuss extending the tunnel beyond West Ruislip.

11. There are many matters which cause great concern to your petitioner, arising from the proposals in the Bill. Your petitioner is hopeful that many of their concerns can be met by agreement with the promoter of the Bill.
12. It is inevitable that that the construction of HS2 as it is presently planned will disrupt the lives of your petitioner in ways..

Colne Valley Tunnel

13. Your petitioner respectfully submits that the proposal to carry the railway overground through the area between Ruislip and the M25 will give rise to many community, health, business and environmental impacts. In your petitioner's respectful submission the cumulative effects of all these adverse impacts requires that a bored tunnel should be constructed instead of an overland route across Ickenham and the Colne Valley.
14. Given all the concerns and issues arising from the overland route in Ickenham and the Colne Valley your petitioner believes that the additional costs of an extension of the London tunnelling would be justified. The following paragraphs set out in more details your petitioner's justification for a tunnel and they also explain the remedies that your petitioner seeks as a minimum in respect of the matters that are covered, should your honourable House not find in favour of a tunnel.

Specific Concerns

Noise

15. Your petitioner understands from the Environmental Statement that there will be significant adverse noise impacts as a direct result of the overground high speed railway in Ickenham and during the construction of the works. Your petitioner will suffer adverse effects from construction sites in Harvil Road, Breakspear Road South and Ickenham High Road for a period of ten years.
16. Your petitioner wishes to ensure that the nominated undertaker should provide a detailed site specific noise mitigation plan along with the provision of adequate compensation measures.

Construction Traffic

17. Your petitioner is concerned about the inadequacy of measures proposed to mitigate the effects of construction traffic throughout Ickenham. The siting of three construction sites in Ickenham up to 10 years with other constructions sites in nearby Harefield will cause significant disruption and congestion to Ickenham suburban roads by HGV traffic which are already heavily congested by local traffic and through traffic from commuters across north west London.
18. Your petitioner also requests that the nominated undertaker be required to mitigate by amending the Code of Construction Practice to strictly enforce the measures such as but not restricted to the following:--

- (a) Restricting HGV movements inside peak hours throughout Ickenham and prohibiting HGV movements near school routes for 30 minutes before and after the start and end of the school day (during term time).
- (b) Operating a low emissions shuttle bus system for construction workers from key public transport interchanges to avoid providing parking for contractors at the construction compounds.

Air Pollution

- 19 Your petitioner is concerned that unless the railway is constructed in a tunnel a significant amount of HGV traffic arising from 3 major construction sites will be directed through Ickenham and will converge on Swakeleys Road, a roadway already exceeding minimum EU standards for health and used by schoolchildren walking to Vyners School.

Unacceptable air pollution will also inevitably be caused by the dumping of waste from the tunnel excavation and the cement works at the proposed railhead by the tunnel portal.

Proposed Railhead at Ickenham

- 20 Your petitioner would request your honourable House to require that the proposed railhead at Ickenham be operational as soon as possible and well in advance of any tunnelling works, in order to minimise the transportation of spoil and materials by roads and the dumping of spoil in green belt areas of Ickenham between Harvil Road and Breakspear Road South.

'Sustainable Placement Areas'

- 21 Your petitioner is concerned about the vast quantity of spoil that is to be dispersed in Ickenham. Your petitioner considers that the areas that have been selected for the 'Sustainable Placement' of material have not been properly assessed. Your petitioner requests your honourable House to require that HS2 re-evaluate the areas identified for the deposit of spoil in terms of their suitability and prepare alternative proposals for consultation.

Local Transport Services

- 22 Your petitioner is concerned that the proposals for HS2 will cause significant disruption to existing bus, rail and underground services. The U1, U9 and U10 bus routes are vital links for many older residents of Ickenham and Harefield including your petitioner, and these services will be greatly impacted by the increased traffic congestion levels..

Landscape

- 23 Your petitioner understands from the Environmental Statement that there will be significant adverse impacts on their landscape both during the ten year construction phase and from the dumping of excavated materials. Your petitioner believes that as the Bill stands it makes no provision to protect the landscape character of their area and request that the Bill is amended so as to provide protection to your petitioner.

Heathrow Spurs

- 24 Your petitioner is of the view that there is no business case for the Heathrow spurs and there is no positive cost benefit case for the disruption during construction or operation as part of Phase Two of the HS2 project. Your petitioner asks that the Bill be amended so that passive provision for the spurs is removed. Your petitioner requests that HS2 take the opportunity to use the costs savings from the dismissal of the Heathrow spurs to build the Colne Valley tunnel as requested.

Conclusion

- 25 The only practicable mitigation for all these impacts is the Colne Valley tunnel as requested above.

Should your honourable House not find in favour of such a tunnel, your petitioner requests that your nominated undertaker be required to construct such facilities as may be necessary to remove spoil from Ickenham by rail via the adjacent Chiltern Railway.

YOUR PETITIONER therefore humbly prays 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 Petitioner 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 Petitioner will ever pray, &c.



[Signature of Petitioner(s) in person, or Agent for the Petitioner]

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Against the Bill - On Merits - By Counsel

Contact : Richard Howard

