

IN PARLIAMENT

0706

HOUSE OF COMMONS

SESSION 2013-14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON - WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

PETITION

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: THE GOVERNING BODY OF VYNERS SCHOOL.

SHEWETH as follows:-

1. A Bill (hereinafter referred to as "the Bill") has been introduced and is now pending in your honourable House entitled "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 Schedules 1 and 2 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 and Schedules 2 and 3 to the Bill.
7. Your petitioner is Vyners School, Warren Road, Ickenham, UB10 8AB in the London Borough of Hillingdon. The school represents the interests of its community which consist of students, staff, parents, governors and local residents.

The school has 1121 students between the ages of 11 -- 18 years, and 160 members of staff.

The school is located within the CFA6 area of the proposed route of HS2 - South Ruislip to Ickenham, in the school catchment area of Ruislip, Ickenham, Hillingdon and Uxbridge. This area and the wider school catchment areas are linked to several major road systems, including Swakeleys Road, which are designated in the HS2 Environmental Statement as being adversely affected by construction HGVs up to 10 years from the construction work for the tunnelling operations at West Ruislip and construction sites in Harvil Road, Breakspear Road South and Harefield.

8. Your petitioners allege that the rights and interests of the school's community would be injuriously and prejudicially affected by the provisions of the Bill if passed into law in their present form and they accordingly object to the Bill for the following reasons, amongst others, hereinafter appearing.

Introductory

9. Your petitioners oppose the Bill in principle. Whilst your petitioners acknowledge the principle of the Bill is established at second reading, your petitioners' views on the subject are so strong, they must be recorded in this petition.
10. There are a number of matters which cause great concern to your petitioners, arising from the proposals in the Bill. Most of the points are specific to the area within your petitioner's catchment area and some of the points apply to areas affecting the wider learning environment or activities areas of the school communities.

General Concerns

11. Your petitioner has identified several specific significant concerns which are set out below. This list is by no means exhaustive, and due to the inadequacy and inaccuracies of the Environmental Statement prepared by HS2, it is inevitable that that the construction of HS2 will disrupt the lives of your petitioner in ways which have not yet been considered.

Specific Concerns

Construction Traffic

12. Your petitioner is gravely 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; these roads are already heavily congested by local traffic and through traffic from commuters across North West London. The school is located off Swakeleys Road, which is already heavily congested during morning and evening peak times and has been identified as being adversely affected in the Environmental Statement. Your petitioner is concerned that there will be adverse effects to school staff travelling to the school, parents taking children to the school and pupils using local bus services, U1, U9 and U10. This will have a direct impact on the learning of students at school if they or their teachers are late to school as a result of the increased congestion.

Air Pollution

13. Your petitioner is concerned that the HGV traffic from the 3 major construction sites in Ickenham up to 10 years will create additional toxic emissions on Swakeleys Road, a roadway already exceeding minimum EU standards for health. Vyners schoolchildren use this road to walk to school and the sports fields located across the A40.
14. Your petitioner requests your honourable House to require that HS2 re evaluate the use of Ickenham roads by HGV traffic and prepare alternative proposals for consultation.
15. Should your honourable House not find in favour of eliminating HGV traffic from Ickenham your petitioner 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:—

Restricting HGV movements inside peak hours throughout Ickenham and prohibiting HGV movements near school routes for 40 minutes before and after the start and end of the school day (during term time).

Ensuring that the school communities and the local community have safe access to their education institution and local facilities by ensuring the Pedestrian crossings in Swakeleys Road and across Swakeleys A40 roundabout are improved so that they are safer and accessible for students. In their current state they are not fit for purpose and we have grave concerns on the safety of our students with the addition of a significant increase in HGV traffic. The Nominated Undertaker to ensure that in the event of any of the existing crossings being temporary closed that an alternative safe replacement crossing is provided.

Environment

16 Your petitioner' staff and pupils make extensive use of the recreational and educational facilities afforded by the London Borough of Hillingdon and the Colne Valley and are very concerned about the following impacts of the high speed railway:

The loss of the Hillingdon Outdoor activity Centre which provides leisure and educational facilities to our students, in particular those that attend our Hearing Impaired Resource Base, a specialist provision.

Adverse effects on the local landscape by the dumping of materials

17 Your petitioner requests your honourable House to require that HS2 re evaluate the extension of the tunnel beyond the Colne Valley.

18 If the Hillingdon Outdoor Activities Centre (HOAC) is forced to close, your petitioners wish to ensure that the Nominated Undertaker will identify and implement an equivalent site for HOAC within an area of five miles of its existing location in Harefield,

19 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 and interests 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 Petitioners in the premises as your Honourable House shall deem meet.

AND your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Signed:

On behalf of the Governing Body of Vyners School

IN PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF COMMONS SESSION 2013-14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON - WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

PETITION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF VYNNERS SCHOOL

Against the Bill - On Merits - By Counsel

Agent: William Henry Gardner

[REDACTED]



Vyners School Academy Trust

Company Number 07796938

Meeting of the Governing Body

Thursday 8th May 2014 at 6.30pm at the School

Present:

Governors: Mr H Gardner (Chair)	Mr D Dent	Mr J Hooker
Ms S Baraban	Mr M Hague	Mrs J Try
Mrs M Becker	Mrs J Hayward	Mr D Trood
Mrs H Chaggar	Mr J Heale (Head)	Mr A Wilcock
Mrs L Crouchman	Mr J Hockin	
Dr H Danpure (Vice Chair)		

School SLT: Ms M Hutchinson (D/Head)	Mr G Mullings (D/Head)	Miss A Pape (Assoc A/Head)
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Clerk: Ms J Beater (Company Secretary/Clerk to the Governors)

Apologies: Mr A Shufflebotham	Miss S Manning (Head Girl)	Mr L Orefice (Head Boy)
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1.	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for Absence	
1.1	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting particularly Miss Alex Pape, Associate Head Teacher who was observing the meeting.	To Note
1.2	Apologies for Absence Apologies for Absence were received and accepted from Mr Shufflebotham. Apologies for lateness were received from Mr Hockin who arrived at 6.55pm.	To Note
2.	Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th December 2013 Agreed: That, subject to the following amendments the minutes be approved and signed as a true record: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 4.3 - Mr Dent to be recorded as Chair of Friends of Vyners • Item 9.4.2.2 - 3rd sentence to start 'He' reported and not 'The' • Item 9.4.2.6 - 'That Mr Gardner be thanked for his report' and not 'her' report • Item 17.1 - 2nd paragraph to read 'actions' and not 'action' 	To Note
3.	Matters Arising from the Minutes <u>Support Staff Pay and Grading Structure</u> - Item 16.1 The Head reported that Governors had met and revised the proposal and that the staff consultation period would close on 9 th May. No objections had been received and the revised proposal would be presented to the next HR&A Committee for recommendation to the next meeting of the full Governing Body. <u>School Uniform</u> - Item 17.1 The Head reported that the school had appointed an additional uniform supplier who was investigating how light reflectors could be included in the school uniform. The Head believed that the school's existing supplier would also respond positively to the light reflectors.	

8.1.1 8.1.2	designated Child Protection Governor and that her training was up to date. Agreed: That the Head would circulate a copy of the latest RAISEOnline. Agreed: That the Head Teacher's report be noted.	
9. 9.1 9.2 9.3 9.4 9.4.1 9.4.2	<p>9. Governance Matters</p> <p>9.1 Parent Governor Elections</p> <p>The Clerk reported that following the last full meeting of Governors' she had liaised with the Business Manager and the election process had been instigated. Within the allotted timeframe for nominations only one nomination had been received and so the nomination period had been extended. Seven nominations had been received and circa 1500 ballot papers had been sent out to parents. She added that she would be in school on 19th May to participate in and oversee the counting of votes.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the preparation of the ballot papers for sending home by 'pupil post' had taken almost a full week of the Business Manager's and the office staff's time and resource. To try and reduce this for the next elections, electronic voting was being investigated.</p> <p>Agreed: That the Clerk would email the nominees' information to Governors.</p> <p>9.2 Governors' Skills Audit</p> <p>The Clerk presented the results of the recent skills audit. Results were broken down by category of Governor and each of the Committees. Governors believed that it would have been helpful to have a copy of the questions and the Clerk agreed to send them out. It was agreed to set up a working party to determine the training required and its associated costs.</p> <p>Agreed: That the questions and full statistics be sent to Governors.</p> <p>Agreed: That a working party be set-up to review the results and to determine the training programmes and plans required to raise the level of Governor knowledge. To report back to Governors by 1st September 2014.</p> <p>9.3 Governor Objectives</p> <p>The Chair reported that the Committees had reviewed the objectives and found them to be on track. He asked Governors to think about objectives for the coming year and to bring them to the July meeting.</p> <p>Agreed: That Governors identify objectives for 2014/15 by 10th July.</p> <p>9.4 2014/15 Meetings</p> <p>The Chair reported that Governors had suggested that the number of meetings be reduced. Mr Hague agreed with this and added that extraordinary meetings could be held during the year to address specific issues, e.g. the budget. The Head reminded Governors that, over the next two or three years, there would be a requirement for project teams to address the school's expansion and the formation of a multi academy trust. Reducing the number of regular Committee meetings would free up Governors' time to participate in the project work and to undertake training. The statutory requirements for each Committee would continue to be considered when determining 2014/15 meeting dates.</p> <p>9.4.1 Agreed: That the number of full Governing Body meetings remain at five.</p> <p>9.4.2 Agreed: That the number of regular Committee meetings be reduced to</p>	<p>To Note</p> <p>JB</p> <p>To Note</p> <p>JB</p> <p>DD/JH JC/SB JB</p> <p>To Note</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>To Note</p> <p>JB</p> <p>JB</p>

9.4.3	one per term with the option of convening additional meetings as required. Agreed: That the Training working party reviews the feasibility of combining the Finance and Facilities Committees.	DD/JH LC/SB JB
9.4.4	Agreed: To identify 'ghost' dates for training or other meeting activities.	JB
9.4.5	Agreed: The Clerk to prepare and circulate the list of meeting dates.	JB
9.5	Link Governor Report – 6th Form Dr Danpure presented the Link Report for the 6 th Form. Governors again expressed concern that, at a time when employers were concerned about the lack of graduates' work experience, work placements for the 6 th form were not compulsory. The Head reassured Governors that the school actively helped 6 th formers to find summer internships across different sectors. Agreed: That Dr Danpure's report be noted.	To Note To Note
9.6	Pay Committee Training The Chair informed Governors that, in view of the increased workload to be placed on the Pay Committee as the result of the new performance management system for teaching staff, he would welcome new faces on the Pay Committee. All Governors wishing to participate in the Pay Committee would be required to undergo training to ensure they fully understood and were conversant with the performance management process for Vyners as well as understanding the moderation of submissions process. Training was vital as it was possible the Governors may be faced with appeals against pay. Agreed: That Governors inform the Chair of their willingness to participate in the Pay Committee.	To Note ALL
10.	Plan for School Improvement Mr Mullings advised Governors that the plan had not been fully reviewed since the last meeting. Development had taken place particularly around the environment section with the release of £100K for a range of works in the summer including redesigning the playground, new chairs for the hall and canteen. In addition £120K of funding from the DfE had been obtained for the gym, the music room ceiling and the 90s block boilers. In preparation for the new National Curriculum the subject leaders would be writing schemes of work for September. The school was also working on enrichment courses for Year 9 as well as developing cross-departmental best practice. The SIP would be updated and circulated. Mr Mullings reported that the priorities for 2014/15 had been determined and a first draft would be ready by half-term with a more defined version for the next Governing Body meeting. Agreed: That Mr Mullings be thanked for his report.	To Note To Note
11.	Budget None	To Note
12.	Student Achievement	
12.1	Summer 2014 Exam Projections Mr Mullings circulated copies of the projected Year 11 summer exam results. This information was based on the March data collection. The May data	To Note

	<p>would be available on 9th May.</p> <p>The data projected:</p> <p>78.57% - 5 A*-C including English and Maths 82.42% - English A*-C 92.31% - Maths A*-C 81.32% - Double Science A*-C 43.96% - English Baccalaureate</p> <p>Governors were pleased to note that the predicted results exceeded last year's achievement levels.</p>	
13.	<p>Self – Evaluation</p> <p>None</p>	To Note
14.	<p>Committee Reports</p>	
14.1	<p>Human Resources & Admissions Committee – 25th March 2014</p> <p>Mr Trood reported two admissions complaints for Year 7 and Year 9 had been received and processed.</p> <p>Agreed: That the minutes of the meetings on 25th March 2014 be noted.</p>	To Note To Note
14.2	<p>Curriculum and Student Support Committee – 31st March 2014</p> <p>Dr Danpure reported that Governors had received an informative presentation from the Geography department'</p> <p>Agreed: That the minutes of the meetings on 31st March 2014 be noted.</p>	
14.3	<p>Finance Committee – 28th April 2014</p> <p>Mr Hague reported that the budget for 2014/15 and the 3 year plan had been reviewed and Governors had expressed concern about the projected deficit of £300K which was worst case scenario. The Head and the Finance Manager had already identified savings of over £100K and so the Committee had asked for the figures to be remodelled and represented at the next Finance meeting. Mr Hague also reported that the projected deficit for 2013/14 of £275K had been reduced to £67K. The meeting had also authorised £100K for capital improvement works and £27K for the replacement of the interactive whiteboards.</p> <p>Agreed: That the minutes of the meeting on 28th April 2014 be noted.</p>	To Note To Note
14.4	<p>Facilities Committee – 28th April 2014</p> <p>Mr Hooker reported that the summer capital investment works had been prioritised and agreed which included the remodelling of the playground along with the replacement of the interactive whiteboards as well as acoustic panels for the HIRB. An open day was planned for w/c 7th July to show-off to parents all the improvements made to the school in the past year.</p> <p>Agreed: That the minutes of the meeting on 28th April 2014 be noted.</p>	To Note To Note
15.	<p>Tenders</p> <p>Replacement of Interactive Whiteboards</p> <p>The tender to replace the interactive whiteboards had been discussed under item 14.4.</p> <p>Agreed: That AV Parts Master be awarded the contract to replace the interactive whiteboards. Proposed by Mr Gardner, Seconded by Mr Hooker and agreed unanimously.</p>	To Note

16.	Policy Reviews Non	To Note
17.	Any Other Business	
17.1	Ickenham Festival The Head reported that he had been approached by the organisers of the Ickenham Festival about potentially using the school for the festival. The organisers were experiencing some issues with the owners of Swakeleys House and needed a back-up plan. It was critical to hold the festival in Ickenham. The Head saw this as an ideal opportunity of meeting local needs. There had been some concern about site security and local residents but the organisers had assuaged the Head's concerns. A change in venues would result in a change in format for the festival and the Head reported that the organisers were currently working out what the festival at Vyners would look like. Governors expressed concerns about students sitting exams on the set-up day and about damage to the grass on the school's site. The Head reassured Governors about the exams and confirmed that potential damage to the grass would be included in discussions. Governors agreed that this would, if it went ahead, provide a wonderful opportunity to bring the community into the school. Agreed: That if asked the school site be used to house the Ickenham Festival providing all school concerns were addressed. Proposed by Mr Hooker, Seconded by Mr Gardner and agreed unanimously.	To Note JMH
17.2	Governor Resignation The Chair announced that Mrs Becker had resigned her role as Parent Governor and would be standing down following the meeting. The Chair understood Mrs Becker's reason and thanked her for her work and commitment to the school.	To Note
17.3	Multi Academy Trust See Part II Confidential.	
17.4	Head Teacher's Salary See Part II Confidential. <i>All teaching and support staff left the meeting at this point.</i>	
18.	Review of Meeting The meeting had: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received the results of the skills audit and agreed the formation of a working party to review training requirements • Appointed a new Governor • Agreed to resolve the support staff pay and grading structure as quickly as possible • Agreed the feasibility of a MAT 	To Note
19.	Date of Next Meeting <u>Note:</u> The next meeting will be held on Thursday 10 th July 2014	To Note

The meeting ended at 8.20pm