

IN PARLIAMENT

0710

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 JILL NORMA WATSON and others

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 Petitioners are the owners of the following properties which are located in the London Borough of Hillingdon.

- 1, The Greenway, UB10 8LS
- 2 The Greenway, UB10 8LS
- 4, Buckland Court, The Greenway, UB10 8LA
- 6, The Greenway, UB10 8LS
- 7, The Greenway, UB10 8LS
- 7, Buckland Court, The Greenway, UB10 8LA
- 8, The Greenway, UB10 8LX
- 8, Buckland Court, The Greenway, UB10 8LA
- 9, The Greenway, UB10 8LS
- 10, The Greenway, UB10 8LS
- 10, Buckland Court, The Greenway, UB10 8LA
- 11, The Greenway, UB10 8LS
- 12, The Greenway, UB10 8LT
- 14, The Greenway, UB10 8LT
- 15, The Greenway, UB10 8LS
- 16, The Greenway, UB10 8LT
- 17, The Greenway, UB10 8LS
- 20, The Greenway, UB10 8LT

21, The Greenway, UB10 8LS
23, The Greenway, UB10 8LS
25, The Greenway, UB10 8LS
27, The Greenway, UB10 8LS
29, The Greenway, UB10 8LS
31, The Greenway, UB10 8LS
33, The Greenway, UB1 8LS
37, The Greenway, UB10 8LS
39, The Greenway, UB10 8LS
41, The Greenway, UB10 8LS
43, The Greenway, UB10 8LS
45, The Greenway, UB10 8LS
47, The Greenway, UB10 8LU
49, The Greenway, UB10 8LU
51, The Greenway, UB10 8LU
53, The Greenway, UB10 8LS
57, The Greenway, UB10 8LX
61, The Greenway, UB10 8LX
63, The Greenway, UB10 8LX
65, The Greenway, UB10 8LX
67, The Greenway, UB10 8LX
69, The Greenway, UB10 8LX
73, The Greenway, UB10 8LX
75, The Greenway, UB10 8LX
77, The Greenway, UB10 8LX
79, The Greenway, UB10 8LX
83, The Greenway, UB10 8LX
85, The Greenway, UB10 8LX
89, The Greenway, UB10 8LX
91, The Greenway, UB10 8LX
93, The Greenway, UB10 8LX
95, The Greenway, UB10 8LX
97, The Greenway, UB10 8LX
101, The Greenway, UB10 8LU
105, The Greenway, UB10 8LU
107, The Greenway, UB10 8LS
111, The Greenway, UB10 8LS
113, The Greenway, UB10 8LS
115, The Greenway, UB10 8LS
117, The Greenway, UB10 8LS
121, The Greenway, UB10 8LS
125, The Greenway, UB10 8LS
127, The Greenway, UB10 8LS
129, The Greenway, UB10 8LS
131, The Greenway, UB10 8LS
133, The Greenway, UB10 8LT
135, The Greenway, UB10 8LT

137, The Greenway, UB10 8LT
139, The Greenway, UB10 8LT
141, The Greenway, UB10 8LT
143, The Greenway, UB10 8LT
145, The Greenway, UB10 8LT
147, The Greenway, UB10 8LT
149A, The Greenway, UB10 8LT
149B, The Greenway, UB10 8LT
153, The Greenway, UB10 8LT
155, The Greenway, UB10 8LT
167, The Greenway, UB10 8LT
169, The Greenway, UB10 8LT
171, The Greenway, UB10 8LT
173, The Greenway, UB10 8LT
181, The Greenway, UB10 8LT
185, The Greenway, UB10 8LT
189, The Greenway, UB10 8LT
195, The Greenway, UB10 8LT
197, The Greenway, UB10 8LT

- 8 Your Petitioners allege that they and their 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 they accordingly object to the Bill for the reasons, amongst others, hereinafter appearing.

Introductory

- 9 Your petitioners oppose the Bill in principle. Whilst your petitioners acknowledge that 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 Your petitioners consider 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.
11. 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.
- 12 There are many matters which cause great concern to your petitioners, arising from the proposals in the Bill. Your petitioners are hopeful that many of their concerns can be met by agreement with the promoter of the Bill.

General Concerns

- 13 As residents of Ickenham your petitioners have 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 the construction of HS2 will disrupt the lives of your petitioners in ways which have not yet been considered.

Colne Valley Tunnel

- 14 Your petitioners respectfully submit 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 petitioners' 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.
- 15 Given all the concerns and issues arising from the overland route in Ickenham and the Colne Valley your petitioners believe that the additional costs of an extension of the London tunnelling would be justified. The following paragraphs set out in more details your petitioners' justification for a tunnel and they also explain the remedies that your petitioners seek 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

- 16 Your petitioners understand 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 petitioners will suffer adverse effects from construction sites in Harvil Road, Breakspear Road South, The Greenway and Ickenham High Road for a period of ten years.
- 17 Your petitioners wish 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

- 18 Your petitioners are 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 which are already heavily congested by local traffic and through traffic from commuters across north west London. Breakspear Road South, Harvil Road, Swakeleys Road and Ickenham High Road are already heavily congested during morning and evening peak times. A number of side roads such as Copthall Road West, St Georges Drive, Greenacres Avenue, Thornhill Road, Ivy House Road, Warren Road are already affected by 'rat running', Your petitioners are concerned that they will be adversely affected in travelling to their jobs and taking children to schools.
- 19 Your petitioners also request 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.

Health and Welfare

- 20 Your petitioners are gravely concerned that the emergency services will be unable to provide timely support to their families and property due to road congestion during the construction period. The roads in Ickenham provide access to Harefield Hospital dedicated Heart Attack Centre which is used for emergencies from outer north-west London; according to the Trust speed of treatment has shown to be crucial to survival in these cases. Your petitioners wish to ensure that the nominated undertaker will at all times during the construction works maintain adequate access through Ickenham for emergency services.

Environment

- 21 Your petitioners make extensive use of the recreational 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:

- a) Diversions of public rights of way are so lengthy and in some cases diverted onto busy roads, e.g. Breakspear Road South, with no footways representing a danger to the public's lives.
- b) The loss of the Hillingdon Outdoor activity Centre which provides leisure and educational facilities for your petitioners and their families
- c) The impacts on Uxbridge and Ruislip Golf courses which may require their temporary or permanent closure
- d) Adverse effects on the ecology in particular on the bat and owl populations.
- e) The use of the green belt areas of Ickenham between Harvil Road and Breakspear Road South as spoil dumps.

The only practicable mitigation for all these impacts is the full tunnel as requested above.

Should your honourable House not find in favour of such a tunnel, your petitioners request that your nominated undertaker be required to construct such facilities as may be necessary to remove spoil from Ickenham by rail.

Air Pollution

- 22 Your petitioners are 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 the petitioners' schoolchildren walking to Vyners School.

Drainage and flooding

- 23 Your petitioners are also concerned that there is an increased risk of surface water flooding from placement of excavated material and construction of works between Harvil Road and Breakspear Road South. Your petitioners believe that the Bill as it stands makes no provision to safeguard your petitioners' roads and properties from flooding and groundwater contamination and the provisions necessary for their protection have been omitted from it. Your petitioners request that the nominated undertaker commission a detailed independent assessment of the risks of surface water flooding or the implications on ground water contamination which can form the basis of comprehensive mitigation proposals.

Proposed Railhead at Ickenham

- 24 Your petitioners 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'

- 25 Your petitioners are concerned about the vast quantity of spoil that is to be dispersed in Ickenham. Your petitioners consider that the areas that have been selected for the 'Sustainable Placement' of material have not been properly assessed. Your petitioners request 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

- 26 Your petitioners are 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 of your petitioners' older constituents and these services will be greatly impacted by the increased traffic congestion levels. The extensive construction works and railhead required at West Ruislip are a particular cause for concern as the LT Central Line and Chiltern railway are used by your petitioners to travel to their places of work. Your petitioners request your honourable House to require assurances from the undertaker that your petitioners transport services will not be disrupted during construction works.

Landscape

- 27 Your petitioners understand 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 petitioners believe 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 petitioners.

Heathrow Spurs

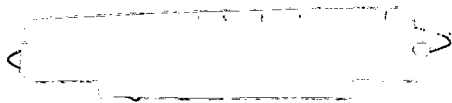
- 29 Your petitioners are of the view that there is no business case for the Heathrow spurs and there is no positive cost benefit case for the disruption during construction or operation as part of Phase Two of the HS2 project. Your petitioners ask that the Bill be amended so that passive provision for the spurs is removed. Your petitioners request 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.

30 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 Petitioner in the premises as your Honourable House shall deem meet.

AND your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Jill Norma Watson



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Against the Bill - On Merits - By Counsel

Contact : Jill Watson
