

IN PARLIAMENT

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:

Jennifer Baker & others

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 petitioners are Jennifer Baker and others in Shorediche Close, Ickenham, Middlesex, UB10 8EB

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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.

9 Introductory

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.

There are a number of matters which cause great concern to your petitioners, arising from the proposals in the Bill.

10 General Concerns

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 the construction of HS2 will disrupt the lives of your petitioner/s in ways which have not yet been considered.

11 Specific Concerns

Your petitions 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.

12 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.

13 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.

14 Construction Traffic

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 for up to 10 years with other construction sites in nearby Harefield which will also 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. HS2 maps of congestion backlog demonstrate this and anyone who lives in the Ickenham area can testify to the massive traffic jams every day for people traversing from West Ruislip through Ickenham to Hillingdon or Uxbridge and to join the A40 and M40. This would also be greatly magnified by the temporary closure of Harvil Road. Harvil Road will also be a dumping and construction site which will include a concrete factory and a de contamination plant.

Warren Road 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 residents travelling to and from their places of employment, taking children to school and using local transport services. There are properties in Shorediche Close whose back gardens adjoin Swakeleys Road these homes are only forty feet from Swakeleys Road. This is of particular importance to the people in Shorediche Close.

15 Vibration

Your Petioners in Shorediche Close are extremely concerned, some of their houses have only 40 foot back gardens which back directly onto Swakeleys Road (see also mentioned above), about the effects of vibration arising from the heavy constructtion traffic passing through their part of the Swakeleys Road. This will severely impact upon the use and enjoyment of their property. This vibration could disturb their foundations and create cracking internally and externally to their houses and windows; It could also create disturbances to gardens and greenhouses.

Your Petitioner requests that here would be binding mitigation measures including vibration and result an damage mitigation and monitoring system in place before commencement and during construction and operation. Binding mitigation measures should include but not be limited to an express obligation to undertake specific measures to limit structural and other damage to the Property.

16 Air Pollution

Your petitioner is very concerned that the HGV traffic from the 3 major construction sites in Ickenham for up to 10 years will create additional toxic emissions on Swakeleys Road, a roadway already exceeding minimum EU standards for health. This is of particular concern to the residents whose homes are in Shorediche Close as mentioned above.

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.

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:—

- 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) Ensuring that the local community has safe access to local facilities by ensuring the Pedestrian crossings in Swakeleys Road and across Swakeleys A40 roundabout are accessible not restricted and kept in full working order. 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.

17 Environment

Your petitioners 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 impacts of the high speed railway:

- a) The loss of the Hillingdon Outdoor activity Centre which provides leisure and educational facilities.
- b) The impacts on Uxbridge and Ruislip Golf courses during construction which may require their temporary or permanent closure.
- c) Adverse effects on the local landscape by the dumping of materials onto Green Belt areas which includes a major dumping area at the corner of Breakspeare Road South and Swakeleys Road and will be immediately behind the farmland hedge which will be a 3metre high eyesore for the residents of Shorediche Close whose living rooms are on the first floor and will overlook the dumping area which is currently farmland fields used for cattle grazing.

18 Sustainable Placement Areas'

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 the nominated undertaker re-evaluate the areas identified for the

deposit of spoil in terms of their suitability and prepare, alongside the Local Authority and Residents Associations, alternative proposals for consultation. An alternative to dumping spoil in the proposed area would be to use the excavated soil in the building of flood defences, or being used to infill the local gravel pits and landscape the areas around them, thereby creating new parkland and open areas for local residents to enjoy.

19 Landscape

Your petitioners understand, from the Environmental Statement, that there will be significant adverse impacts of 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. Your petitioners would request your honourable House to require that the nominated undertaker undertakes the development of, and maintenance of, a detailed exemplar landscape design for the area in full consultation with local communities and that this initiative is adequately resourced.

20 The Colne Valley

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

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.

23, Shorediche Close, Ickenham, Middx.

and this is the Petition of Jennifer Baker

AND your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Signed: Jennifer Baker

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HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON - WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

PETITION OF JENNIFER BAKER & OTHERS

AGAINST, by Counsel, & c

Contact: Jennifer Baker