

IN PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF COMMONS

SESSION 2013-14

0712

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
Ickenham Residents Association

SHEWETH as follows:-

- 1 A Bill (hereinafter called "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 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 the Ickenham Residents Association established in 1924 and representing 3235 households in the Ickenham ward of the London Borough of Hillingdon. Your petitioner and its members submitted 2617 responses to the HS2 Phase One Environmental Statement Consultation – together with Harefield our neighbouring ward we represented 25% of the responses to the Consultation which demonstrates the great concerns your petitioner and its members have.
- 8 Your petitioner alleges that they and their members' property, rights and interests in Ickenham in the London Borough of Hillingdon 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 petitioner opposes the Bill in principle. Whilst your petitioner acknowledges that the principle of the Bill is established at second reading, your petitioner's views on the subject are so strong, they must be recorded in this petition.

- 10 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.
- 11 HS2 Ltd refused to engage in discussion with your petitioner and its members to mitigate the adverse impacts on Ickenham. Even with the intervention of your petitioner's local MP in September 2013, HS2 Ltd refused to meet with your petitioner to discuss extending the tunnel beyond West Ruislip.
- 12 Your petitioner alleges that the Government should have carried out a Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment prior to its decision to proceed with the HS2 Scheme in January 2012. Furthermore, your petitioner considers that the Environmental Statement fails to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, the HS2 proposal will cause harm to the open countryside and Green Belt land, which is arguably contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework. Insufficient time has been allowed for comprehensive consideration of the Environmental Statement consultation responses and that there has been a wholly inadequate summary of these responses which has overtly omitted vast amounts of very significant information which should have been included. General Concerns
- 13 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 and its members in ways which are not yet known.

Tunnel Extensions

- 14 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.
- 15 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.
- 16 The following paragraphs set out in more details your petitioner's justification for a tunnel. Should your honourable house not find in favour of a tunnel across Ickenham and the Colne Valley your petitioner requests that the tunnel as a minimum is extended to beyond Breakspear Road South, Ickenham thereby avoiding significant adverse noise impacts from an overground railway to many hundreds of households in Ickenham and avoiding the siting of a construction site for the tunnel portal in a residential area with high levels of traffic congestion. The feasibility of such a tunnel extension has already been analysed by HS2 Ltd.

- 17 The following paragraphs 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 the tunnel being extended

Specific Concerns

Construction Works

- 18 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 the siting of three constructions sites in the area of Ickenham, heavy volumes of construction traffic, the dumping of spoil on green belt land, a construction compound on ancient farmland with a concrete factory, de contamination plant, lorry parks and storage of fuel.
- 19 Your petitioner requests your honourable House to require that the nominated undertaker is subject to binding mitigation measures to mitigate the impacts of these works. These binding mitigation measures should include but not be limited to restrictions on noise, dust and vibration, 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).
- 20 The nominated undertaker should also mitigate the impacts on visual amenity through measures such as noise insulation and barriers, sheeting of haulage vehicles, dust dampening, hand piling, and sympathetic design in keeping with the surrounding area .

Noise

- 21 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 and its members will suffer adverse effects from construction traffic and sites in Harvil Road, Breakspear Road South and Ickenham High Road for a period of ten years.
- 22 Your petitioner is concerned that the noise thresholds chosen by HS2 Ltd do not reflect current World Health Organisation standards or the latest research which shows adverse health impacts from prolonged exposure to noise above World Health Organisation limits.
- 23 Your petitioner requests your honourable House to require the nominated undertaker to ensure that operation of the high speed railway does not exceed 40dB, the threshold identified by the World Health Organisation as appropriate for ensuring no long term health issues for persons living nearby.
- 24 Your petitioner requests your honourable House to require the nominated undertaker should be compelled to use best available techniques in the construction and operation of the high speed railway and its associated development to ensure that no noise can be felt in the residential dwellings and there are no other adverse effects.

- 25 Your petitioner also requests your honourable House to require that there should be binding mitigation measures on the nominated undertaker including effective noise mitigation and monitoring system in place before commencement and during construction and operation of the high speed railway and associated development together with the provision of adequate compensation measures.

Construction Traffic

- 26 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 which are already heavily congested by local traffic and through traffic from commuters across north west London. Breakspear Road South, Harvil Road, Swakeleys Road, 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 petitioner and its constituents are concerned that they will be adversely affected in travelling to their jobs, taking children to schools and the safety of their children walking to school.
- 27 Your petitioner requests that the nominated undertaker be required to mitigate the adverse effects of the heavy volume of construction traffic, its congestion and its adverse effects of air pollution, noise, and vibration by re evaluating the construction plans and amending the Code of Construction Practice to strictly enforce the measures such as but not restricted to the following:-
- (a) Devise and implement a traffic management plan sensitive to considerations for the local community including flow management and unidirectional routing around the area.
 - (b) Construction of the viaduct across the Colne Valley first and use the viaduct as road access to the site via Moor Hall Road which provides a direct short link to the North Orbital Road. This would protect both Ickenham and South Harefield.
 - (c) 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).
 - (d) 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 accessible, not restricted and kept in full working order. The Nominated Undertaker should ensure that in the event of any of the existing crossings being temporarily closed, that an alternative safe replacement crossing is provided.
 - (e) Operating a low emissions shuttle bus system for construction workers from key public transport interchanges to restrict the need to provide car parking for contractors at the construction compounds.

- (f) Constructing such facilities as may be necessary to remove spoil from Ickenham by rail, so avoiding the creation of the spoil dumps between Harvil Road and Breakspear Road South.

Health and Welfare

- 28 Your petitioner is gravely concerned that the emergency services will be unable to provide timely support to their members' 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 petitioner request your honourable House to require that the nominated undertaker will at all times during the construction works maintain adequate access through Ickenham for emergency services.

Environment

- 29 Your petitioner and its members 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 thereby representing a danger to the publics 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.
- 30 The only practicable mitigation for all these impacts is the full tunnel as requested above.
- 31 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

- 32 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 the petitioner and its members' schoolchildren, walking to Vyners School.

Vibration

- 33 Your petitioner is concerned about the effects of vibration arising from the construction of the high speed railway and associated development including heavy construction traffic. In addition to your petitioner and its members' concerns for their properties the ward of Ickenham includes ancient buildings and structures which are situated close to proposed construction routes and do not have substantial foundations.
- 34 Your petitioner requests your honourable House to require that there should be binding mitigation measures on the nominated undertaker, including vibration and resultant 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.

Drainage and flooding

- 35 Your petitioner is 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 petitioner believes that the Bill as it stands makes no provision to safeguard your petitioners and its members' roads and properties from flooding and groundwater contamination and the provisions necessary for their protection have been omitted from it. Your petitioner requires the nominated undertaker to commissions 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

- 36 Your petitioner would request your honourable House to require the nominated undertaker to ensure 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'

- 37 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 the nominated undertaker re-evaluate the areas identified for the deposit of spoil in terms of their suitability and prepare alternative proposals for consultation.

Local Transport Services

- 38 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 of your petitioner's older members 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 petitioner and its members to travel to their places of work. Your petitioner requests your honourable House to require assurances from the nominated undertaker that your petitioner's transport services will not be disrupted during construction works.

Landscape

- 39 Your petitioner understands from the Environmental Statement that there will be significant adverse impacts on the landscape in Ickenham 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 Ickenham and request your honourable House to amend the Bill so as to provide protection to your petitioners.

Compensation

- 40 Your petitioner submits that the compensation provisions in relation to property that is not compulsory acquired and other matters are not sufficient to compensate your petitioner and its members adequately for the loss and damage they may incur as a result of construction and operation of the high speed railway and associated development. Many households in Ickenham will be affected by blight from construction sites and construction traffic for up to 10 years and are unable to sell their properties at unblighted prices.
- 41 Your Petitioner requests your honourable House to amend the Bill to ensure your petitioner and its members outside the safeguarded area who are injuriously affected and adversely affected by loss of value to their properties should be entitled to claim compensation.

Heathrow Spurs

- 42 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 requests that the Bill be amended so that passive provision for the spurs is removed. Your petitioner requests your honourable House to require that the nominated undertaker takes the opportunity to use the costs savings from the dismissal of the Heathrow spurs to build the Colne Valley tunnel as requested.
- 43 There are other clauses and provisions of the Bill which, if passed into law as they now stand will prejudicially affect your petitioner and its members' rights and interests and for which no adequate provision is made to protect your petitioner.

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 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.



On behalf of the Ickenham Residents Association

IN PARLIAMENT

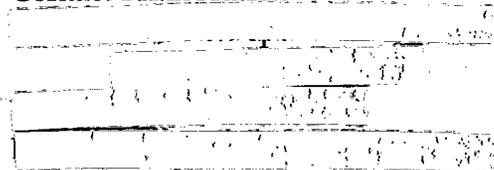
HOUSE OF COMMONS SESSION 2013-14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON - WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

PETITION OF ICKENHAM RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

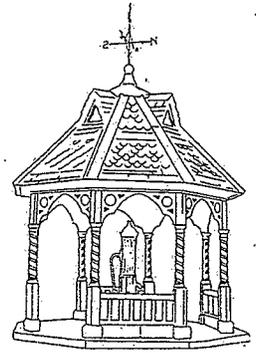
AGAINST, by Counsel, & c.

Contact Brian Adams



Ickenham Residents' Association

General Secretary: 6 The Chase, Ickenham, Uxbridge, UB10 8SR



THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**FRIDAY, 11th APRIL 2014 at 8.00 pm
IN THE VILLAGE HALL, SWAKELEYS ROAD, ICKENHAM**

Extract from the minutes

AGENDA Item 11 Any Other Business - at the Chairman's discretion

The Chairman read a proposal to the meeting requesting the membership's support for the Association to petition Parliament regarding the HS2 Hybrid Bill.

The motion was put to the meeting and the vote was as follows

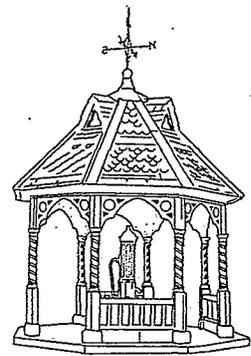
Members for 146

Members against None

Abstentions 1

Ickenham Residents' Association

General Secretary: 6 The Chase, Ickenham, Uxbridge, UB10 8SR



14th May 2014

Committee Meeting of The Ickenham Residents Association

Held 14th May 2014 in St. Giles Church Hall

At this monthly committee meeting of the Ickenham Residents Association on 14 May 2014 the committee authorised Brian Adams, Committee Member, to present the Association's petition against the HS2 Hybrid Bill.

Signed

Jill Dalton

Chair

June Reyner General Secretary