

0715

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

Kirsty Gibbs  
Kevin Stockwell  
Fearne Stockwell  
Neville George  
Maria Cecilia George  
Rosemary Nathan  
Geoff Pegram  
Mary Pegram  
Rosina Lawrance  
Arthur Lawrance  
Suzanne Bridger  
Geoffrey Bridger  
Chris Evans  
Rosemary Hitchings  
Geoffrey Hitchings  
Maureen Prior  
Jean F Jackson  
Roderick Munro  
Jennifer Munro  
Margaret Sinclair  
Peter Sinclair  
Judith Clegg  
Philippa Clegg  
Patricia M Peyton  
Roberto Calvia  
Linda Calvin  
Anne James  
Michael Lewis  
Amanda Whelan  
Elaine Olszanski  
Michael Olszanski  
Joshua Olszanski  
Herpal Chahal  
Sarvi Chahal

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.

13, Wallasey Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8SA  
 41, Wallasey Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8SA  
 39, Wallasey Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8SA  
 42, Wallasey Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8SA  
 38, Wallasey Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8SA  
 2, Wallasey Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8SA  
 43, Wallasey Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8SA  
 30, Wallasey Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8SA  
 27, Wallasey Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8SA  
 40, Wallasey Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8SA  
 7, Wallasey Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8SA  
 25, Wallasey Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8SA  
 9, Wallasey Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8SA  
 3, Wallasey Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8SA  
 42a, Wallasey Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8SA  
 2a, Wallasey Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8SA  
 29, Wallasey Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8SA  
 18, Wallasey Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8SA  
 33, Wallasey Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8SA

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 and visual impact**

- 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 in Wallasey Crescent which includes families with children and elderly residents will suffer adverse effects from construction works and the construction sites for a period of ten years. If as currently proposed the construction work takes place 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, your petitioners in Wallasey Crescent will be forced to endure up to 10 years of continuous noise, air pollution, light pollution and sleep deprivation. We would therefore request work is limited to the hours of 8.30am – 5 pm, Monday to Friday in order for residents to be given some respite from construction being carried out over so many years, to expect otherwise is unjust and unreasonable.
- 17 Your petitioners wish to ensure that the nominated undertaker should provide a detailed site specific noise mitigation plan for both construction and operation along with the provision of both appropriate and adequate compensation measures for all residents of Wallasey Crescent.

### 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, Ickenham High Road are already heavily congested during morning and evening peak times. A number of side roads such as Cophall Road West, St Georges Drive, Greenacres Avenue, Thornhill Road, Ivy House Road, Warren Road are already affected by 'rat running'. Your petitioners in Wallasey Crescent, which is already congested for a large part of day by commuters using it as a car park, are concerned that they will be adversely affected by further congestion especially when parents are taking their children to Breakspear schools. This results in vehicles, commuters cars and parents dropping of or picking up their children parked on both sides of the road, this leaves space for only one vehicle able to move down the centre of the road, and therefore entering or leaving Wallasey Crescent onto Swakeleys Road which will be carrying large numbers of H.G.V. construction vehicles will become even more time consuming and difficult than at present. Additionally Wallasey Crescent has both a Medical Centre and Chiroprapist located in the road which are essential to the local community and any additional traffic will make these vital resources difficult to reach unless walking (Not always practical especially for those with young children or the elderly)
- 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 a minimum of 30 minutes before and after the start and end of the day of the local schools (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 monitor congestion and maintain adequate access through Ickenham for all emergency services and from the north of the borough to Hillingdon Hospital and also to Northwick Park Hospital, by working closely with the emergency services and accepting whatever proposals those services require without reservation.

### **Environment and Local Facilities**

- 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 to 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 loss of woodlands, trees and hedges along open spaces and footpaths used by residents.
  - f) 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 there will be an increase in local air pollution. 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, 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.

### **Local Transport Services**

- 26 Your petitioners are concerned that the proposals for HS2 construction 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. Your petitioners request that HS2 undertakes the development of, and maintenance of, a detailed exemplar landscape design for the local area in full consultation with local communities.

### Heathrow Spur

- 28 Your petitioners are of the view that there is no business case for the Heathrow spur 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 spur is removed. Your petitioners request that HS2 take the opportunity to use the costs savings from the dismissal of the Heathrow spur to build the Colne Valley tunnel as requested.
- 29 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.

### Compensation

- 30 Your petitioners own residential properties which are subject to adverse effects for up to 10 years from construction sites in Harvil Road and Breakspear Road South, high volumes of HGV traffic and the dumping of spoil up to 3 metres high in fields in close proximity to their properties. HS2 do not propose to pay compensation for construction blight and your petitioners are unable to sell their properties when they require and at un-blighted prices
- 31 Your petitioners consider that HS2 Ltd should provide fair and just compensation measures for all residents of Wallasey Crescent which include enabling your petitioners to sell their properties at un-blighted prices.

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.



IN PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF COMMONS SESSION 2013-14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON - WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

PETITION OF JOHN DONOVAN

AGAINST, by Counsel, & c

Kirsty Gibbs

[REDACTED]