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IN PARLIAMENT
HOUSE OF COMMONS
SESSION [2013-14][2014-15]

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON – WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

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 Marjorie Christine Fox of 30 Peerless Drive Harefield UB9 6JG, Rose-Marie Adams of 28 Peerless Drive Harefield, Jennifer Wheeler of 24 Peerless Drive and Susan Edwards of 26 Peerless Drive, Karen D Carr of 16 Peerless Drive and Marian Jenkins of 2 Peerless Drive

We have all resided at the above properties in Peerless Drive Harefield for more than 15 years

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 ("the Authorised Works") 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 of the Bill.

7 Your petitioner Marjorie Fox is the freehold owner of 30 Peerless Drive Harefield Middlesex UB9 6JG ("your petitioner's property") and petitions jointly with other freeholders in Peerless Drive ..
Rose-Marie Adams of 28 Peerless Drive,
Jennifer Wheeler of 24 Peerless Drive
Susan Edwards of 26 Peerless Drive
Karen D Carr of 16 Peerless Drive
Marian Jenkins of 2 Peerless Drive

General objections

1. 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.
2. Your petitioners object in principle because they believe the Bill's promoters have not demonstrated a credible economic or environmental case for the proposed railway; that the powers sought in the Bill are excessive and that the

environmental, social, economic and health impacts of the proposed railway have not been properly assessed.

3. Your petitioners also object to the way public consultation has been undertaken and reported prior to deposit of the Bill. Information provided by the Promoter has been piecemeal, incomplete and difficult to access. Your Petitioners have attempted to engage with the Promoter through the Community Forum process, through formal consultations and through direct communication but have not had their questions answered or seen their suggestions result in any change to the proposed scheme. Your Petitioners therefore feel that they still lack information about important aspects of the proposed railway and its construction that are likely to have adverse impacts on them.

Specific Objections

- 8 Your Petitioner's rights, interests and property are heavily adversely affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioners object for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing, yet we will not be compensated.

Your petitioners therefore request adequate compensation .

9 Your petitioner's properties are in close proximity to the construction sites in Harvil Road Harefield proposed to be used under the Bill. Therefore your petitioners' residential properties will be subject to intolerable noise and dust for approximately 7 years given the combined construction of the viaduct, the spoil from the proposed tunnel from London and construction traffic for the proposed tunnel under the Chilterns as Harefield will have a massive disproportionate amount of spoil dumped around our village , as shown in the plans as sometimes 5 m high

Your Petitioners therefore request that this spoil is transported by other means than on the roads, e.g along the Canal and put to environmentally sound purposes

-Your petitioner's properties are in close proximity to Moorhall Road and Harvil Road which are proposed to be used under the Bill as a route for construction traffic for approximately 7 years with 1000s of vehicles daily .

Your petitioners use Harvil Road road daily to access local services in Harefield including shops, health services and the post office and to get to Uxbridge. Your petitioners shop online and therefore access to Peerless Drive for delivery of online shopping will be restricted Our local Council Hillingdon collects waste weekly and those services will be disrupted

We rely on the local bus services U9 and 331 to access Ruislip, Harefield, Uxbridge.. the disruption of those routes will deprive us of regular access to local services

Your Petitioners therefore request

stronger traffic restrictions, to enable people to get to work and back and to access local services.

Moorhall Road is the only route to Denham train station for access to London using Chiltern Railways : Moorfield Road is the only access to the North Orbital Road A412 for access to the M25: already traffic is heavy and if there is an accident , there is gridlock: the prospect of construction traffic along these roads is impractical

Your Petitioners therefore request adequate restrictions on construction traffic to enable daily access to these essential traffic routes for residents

Your Petitioners therefore request time limits on working hours both for construction works and for permanent restrictions on the number of trains and when the trains run to enable us to have rest periods without traffic , train or maintenance noise

Harvil Road is also the only route to the Harefield Heart hospital, which is of national importance : traffic delays caused along this road would be life threatening

Harvil Road is the direct access to our local Hospital in Hillingdon

Therefore use of this road by construction vehicles will increase delays, possibly risk road traffic accidents also increasing the time and cost taken for your petitioners to access facilities

Your Petitioners therefore request that access is guaranteed for all emergency services and detailed restrictions on the use of Harvil Road

-Your petitioner Marjorie Fox is a regular user of the footpath through Harefield quarry southwards and the canal towpath for recreational purposes. The area of green space adjacent to Harvil Road is proposed under the Bill to be used for accommodation for workers, as a massive electricity substation etc. We think the Bill will authorise construction work to take place in the vicinity of Hillingdon Outdoor Activity Centre for at least 5 years . Therefore your petitioners will lose a vital recreational facility which is used both for pleasure and as a sports facility

Your Petitioners therefore request that the location and scale of these sites is changed or at least significantly reduced to minimise the impact on South Harefield

-From your petitioners ' property, your petitioners enjoy views of the Grand Union Canal and the woodland surrounding the Site of Significant Scientific Interest (SSSI) at Broadwater Lake, which is part of the Colne valley which will be spoilt during the construction phase and permanently..

Your petitioner Marjorie Fox is volunteer warden for the SSSI and is aware of many volunteer hours protecting this precious environment for overwintering birds.. the proposed works will permanently damage this precious SSSI . The Environmental Statement accompanying the Bill confirms this adverse affects from our properties by the noise not

only of the construction traffic, but permanently because the noise of the trains passing over the proposed viaduct has been left impossible to determine.. we have raised the differing effect of noise passing over water, yet have received no response.HS2's response is only to offer a low noise barrier on the Harefield side..

Your Petitioners therefore request equal noise protection to minimise the perpetual noise from so many trains per hour in each direction

Your Petitioners request meaningful consultation on the design and construction of the massive viaduct which so threatens our tranquil homes

Your Petitioners therefore request equal, adequate , protection from the noise of trains and guaranteed freedom from night time noise

Your Petitioner has tried to engage with HS2 on behalf of local residents at the Community Fora meetings and through my MP but has only received standard letters to my MP which do not answer the points raised

-This failure to understand or respond to our reasonable requests has added to the anxiety and stress.

Your petitioners have suffered stress and continue to suffer anxiety about the enormity of the disruption to our lives by HS2 , compounded by HS2 failure to communicate with us through the whole period since the scheme was initially mentioned in 20010 : we have endeavoured to raise our concerns throughout this period without achieving any recognition or significant change

This has affected and continues to affect us all, especially those who suffer from respiratory difficulties including chronic illnesses and who are vulnerable to asthma, bronchitis, chest infections.. the probability of serious illness being caused by the dust and pollution is likely to be the subject of litigation unless adequate measures are taken to prevent such noise, dust and pollution

Your petitioner is concerned about the impact of construction works on chalk streams, specifically those associated with local rivers in the neighbouring Chiltern AONB. the River Misbourne and the River Colne.with in the SSSI Chalk streams are globally rare habitats and therefore special measures should be put in place to protect them. Your petitioner regularly visits the Colne Valley for recreational purposes and to enjoy the unique habitats and ecology in this area.

Your petitioner requests that surveys are carried out to inform the current ecological value in these habitats, and surveying continues during construction and operation. If surveying demonstrated any adverse impacts during construction, construction in this area must stop until the cause is identified and negative impacts rectified. Any adverse impacts during operation must be addressed immediately. Surveys should be undertaken independently and at the expense of the nominated undertaker, and the survey method should be agreed with

relevant stakeholders

- 10 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, interests and property and for which no adequate provision is made to protect your Petitioners.

Your petitioners are concerned about the potential negative impacts diverting the River Colne will have on ecology in the area. Your petitioners' residential property lies close to the River Colne, and your petitioner regularly walks along the River Colne to enjoy the wildlife and ecology in this area. As part of her role as volunteer warden for Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust

Your petitioner requests that diversion of the River Colne and establishment of associated riparian habitats is carried out prior to construction works. Riparian habitats must be allowed to establish ecologically prior to any work being carried out on the existing channel. The diversion should provide ecological enhancements to ensure a net gain in biodiversity. This must be demonstrated by ongoing monitoring, agreed in conjunction with the relevant stakeholders

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.

Your Petitioners have requested that if this scheme proceeds despite our continuing total opposition as expressed in responses to consultations, that longer tunnelling is provided under the Colne valley to protect South Harefield.

This would have the benefit of: minimising noise
preventing damage to health to residents
protecting the environment

AND your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

signed by:

Marjorie Fox

Rose-Marie Adams

Jennifer Wheeler

[Redacted]

Susan Edwards

[Redacted]

Karen D Carr

[Redacted]

Marian Jenkins

[Redacted]

Dated.....15.05.2014.....

