

IN PARLIAMENT

0720

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

Philip Taylor

Freda Noonan-Taylor

Colleen Park

Francis Park

Susan Castledine

Joe Godfrey

Alison Godfrey

Bhavesh Patel

Helen Kevelaitis

Lucy Parmee

Paul Kerby

Cathy Kerby

Andy Milner

Adam Milner

Mandy Milner

Barry Dove

Vicky Burgess

Graham Burgess

Vivien Alborough

Andrew Jarman

Jacky Walsh

Michael Walsh

Terry Walsh

Chris Walsh

Joan Adams

Patsy Stoller

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.

10, Ickenham Close, Ruislip HA4 7DJ
58, Ickenham Close, Ruislip HA4 7DJ

12, Ickenham Close, Ruislip HA4 7DJ
18, Ickenham Close, Ruislip HA4 7DJ
56, Ickenham Close, Ruislip HA4 7DJ
14, Ickenham Close, Ruislip HA4 7DJ
6, Ickenham Close, Ruislip HA4 7DJ
60, Ickenham Close, Ruislip HA4 7DJ
46, Ickenham Close, Ruislip HA4 7DJ
50, Ickenham Close, Ruislip HA4 7DJ
52, Ickenham Close, Ruislip HA4 7DJ
36, Ickenham Close, Ruislip HA4 7DJ
38, Ickenham Close, Ruislip HA4 7DJ
20, Ickenham Close, Ruislip HA4 7DJ

5 West Ruislip Court, Ickenham Road, HA4 7DN

7, West Ruislip Court, Ickenham Road, HA4 7DN

- 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 Ruislip and 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, particularly relating to the construction phase, were never discussed at Community Forums.
- 11 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

- 12 As residents of Ruislip 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

- 13 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 Ruislip, Ickenham and the Colne Valley.
- 14 Given all the concerns and issues arising from the overland route in Ruislip, 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

- 15 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 Ruislip and during the construction of the works. Your petitioners will suffer adverse effects from construction sites in Ickenham Road for a period of up to ten years.
- 16 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

- 17 Your petitioners are gravely concerned about the inadequacy of measures proposed to mitigate the effects of construction traffic throughout the parts of Ruislip and Ickenham affected. The siting of a construction site in Ruislip up to 10 years with other construction sites in nearby Harefield will cause significant disruption and congestion to Ruislip and Ickenham suburban roads by HGV traffic which are already heavily congested by local traffic and through traffic from commuters across north west London. Ickenham Road is already heavily congested during morning and evening peak times. Your petitioners are concerned that they will be adversely affected in travelling to their jobs, taking children to schools and their normal daily lives.
- 18 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 Ruislip and 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

- 19 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 Ruislip and 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 Ruislip and Ickenham for emergency services.

Environment

- 20 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.

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 Ruislip and Ickenham by rail.

Air Pollution

- 21 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 Ruislip and Ickenham and will be continually sitting in traffic jams causing significant extra air pollution.

Proposed Railhead at West Ruislip / Ickenham

- 22 Your petitioners would request your honourable House to require that the proposed railhead at West Ruislip / 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.

Local Transport Services

- 23 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.

Heathrow Spurs

- 24 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.
- 25 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.

IN PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF COMMONS SESSION 2013-14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON - WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

PETITION OF PHILIP TAYLOR & OTHERS

Against the Bill - On Merits - By Counsel

Contact : Philip Taylor

