

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 Princes Risborough Town Council.

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 petitioners are the Princes Risborough Town Council who represent the local population in the town and have taken the views from the residents. Your petitioners' area includes roads which are liable, according to the Environmental Statement that accompanies the Bill ("the ES") to be interfered with or used by construction traffic during the construction of the authorised Works.
- 8 Your petitioners allege that their rights, interests and property will be injuriously and prejudicially affected by the provisions of the Bill if passed into law in their present form, and your petitioners accordingly object to the Bill for the reasons, amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
- 9 Your petitioners are gravely concerned with construction traffic using the A4010 and A4129 through Princes Risborough and the injurious impact this will have on (a) the amenity, safety and daily lives of people that front onto and / or use these two roads to get to work, access services, take children to school and use for recreational purposes and (b) the expeditious movement of traffic.

The impact will arise from increased:

- (i) road surface deterioration and structural damage resulting in unsafe conditions for road users,
- (ii) noise, vibration and disturbance resulting in a reduction in amenity,
- (iii) road safety risks and severance for people using footways, which provide access routes to local employment and services, transport links, schools and which also form part of the Ridgeway National Trail.
- (iv) delays to traffic using the A4010, including blue light services travelling to and from the accident and emergency services at Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

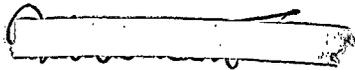
Your petitioners seek undertakings and assurances that the Nominated Undertaker will not be permitted to use the A4010 and A4129 through Princes Risborough for the routing of construction traffic and is instead required to route such traffic along roads that are considered suitable by the local Highway Authority i.e. M40 Junction 8, then via the A418 and A413.

Your petitioners request that if undertakings and assurances are not given, that would otherwise prevent construction traffic from using the A4010 and A4129 through Princes Risborough, then your petitioner seeks the following undertakings and assurances in order to minimise the aforesaid impacts,:

- (a) Prior to the use of the A4010 and A4129 through Princes Risborough as construction traffic routes, the Nominated Undertaker is required to work with the local Highway Authority to minimise the impact upon residents along the construction routes by identifying the most suitable methods and times for construction traffic and by placing restrictions on vehicle size and number of movements.
- (b) Prior to the use of the A4010 and A4129 through Princes Risborough as construction traffic routes, the Nominated Undertaker is required to inspect both roads to determine where work to resurface and strengthen the roads is necessary to avoid the aforesaid impacts and that all such work is funded and completed by the Nominated Undertaker prior to use of the two roads by construction traffic.
- (c) During the construction phase of the HS2 project, the Nominated Undertaker is required to maintain the quality of the two roads and a hotline set up allowing road users to report any damage to the two roads, and the local Highway Authority is given access to all reports, to ensure these are addressed in a reasonable length of time.
- (d) Upon completion of the construction phase of the HS2 project, the Nominated Undertaker is required to inspect both roads to determine where work is necessary in order to return both roads to their original condition and that such work, which might include resurfacing, is funded and carried out by the Nominated Undertaker.
- (e) Prior to the use of the A4010 and A4129 through Princes Risborough as construction traffic routes, the Nominated undertaker is required to fund and install enhanced traffic signs, road markings and calming features on (a) the approaches to the town to alert construction vehicle drivers that they are entering the urban area of Princes Risborough and (b) the approaches to the two schools that front onto the A4010 to alert drivers to the location and existence of each school and that the Nominated Undertaker is required to maintain all such signs, markings and calming features throughout the construction phase of HS2.
- (f) Prior to the use of the A4010 and A4129 through Princes Risborough as construction traffic routes, the Nominated Undertaker is required to fund widening of the A4010 footway (which forms part of the Ridgeway National Trail) to provide a hard surfaced width of 2.0 metres within the existing limits of the public highway, along the entire length of the footway between Upper Icknield Way and Culverton Cross Roads.
- 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 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.



James Stevens
Agent for the Princes Risborough Town Council

IN PARLIAMENT
HOUSE OF COMMONS
SESSION 2013-14

HIGH SPEED RAIL
(LONDON-WEST MIDLANDS)
BILL

PETITION OF PRINCES RISBOROUGH
TOWN COUNCIL

AGAINST, By Counsel, &c.

JAMES STEVENS
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**PRINCES RISBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 16th APRIL 2014 IN THE PRINCES CENTRE,
CLIFFORD ROAD, PRINCES RISBOROUGH AT 6.30PM**

PRESENT

Cllr A Turner – Chairman

Cllrs W Streule, G Hall, J Coombs, W Woolf, I McLauchlan, M Walsh, B Bendyshe-Brown, A Rolfe and M Lowe

Susanne Griffiths - Clerk to the Town Council

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs P Summerbell and S Swanson

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any personal interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting. None were declared.

4. RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL TO OPPOSE HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON – WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

The Town Council is concerned with construction traffic using the A4010 and A4129 through Princes Risborough and the detrimental impact this will have on local amenity and the daily lives of people that front onto and / or use these two roads to: get to work, access services, take children to school and for recreational purposes.

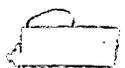
The detrimental impacts will arise from:

- (a) increased road surface deterioration and structural failure resulting in unsafe conditions for road users,
- (b) increased noise, vibration, disturbance and delays resulting in a reduction in local amenity,
- (c) increased road safety risks and severance for people using the footways alongside the A4010 and A4129, which provide access routes to local employment and services, transport links, schools and also form part of the Ridgeway National Trail.

To avoid the aforesaid impacts, it is proposed to petition that construction traffic should not be permitted to use these two roads through Princes Risborough and is instead routed to and from the M40 via junction 8 and then via the A418 and A413 (this route is considered suitable by the local highway authority for use by HS2 construction traffic, whereas the A4010 and A4129 are not).

If Parliament does not agree to alter the construction traffic routing, then in order to minimise the aforesaid detrimental impacts upon people in Princes Risborough, the following mitigation measures should be put in place:

- a) Prior to the use of the A4010 and A4129 through Princes Risborough as construction routes, both roads must be inspected to determine where work to resurface and strengthen the roads is necessary to avoid the aforesaid detrimental impacts and that such work is completed by the nominated undertaker prior to use of the two roads by construction traffic.
- b) During the construction phase of the HS2 project, the nominated undertaker must maintain the quality of the two roads and a hotline set up allowing road users to report any damage to the two roads, and the highway authority given access to all reports, to ensure these are addressed in a reasonable length of time.
- c) Upon completion of the construction phase of the HS2 project, the two roads must be inspected to determine where work is necessary in order to return both roads to their original condition and that such work, which might include resurfacing, must be carried out by the nominated undertaker.

 22/04/14

- d) Prior to the use of the A4010 and A4129 through Princes Risborough as construction routes, enhanced traffic signs and road markings are provided and installed by the nominated undertaker on (a) the approaches to the town to alert construction vehicle drivers that they are entering the urban area of Princes Risborough and (b) the approaches to the two schools that front onto the A4010 to alert drivers to the location and existence of each school and that all such signs and road markings are maintained by the nominated undertaker throughout the construction phase of HS2.
- e) Prior to the use of the A4010 and A4129 through Princes Risborough as construction routes, the A4010 footway, which forms part of the Ridgeway National Trail, must be widened within the existing limits of the public highway by the nominated undertaker to provide a hard surfaced width of 2.0 metres along the entire length between Upper Icknield Way and Culverton Cross Roads.

Councillors were asked to agree to the following RESOLUTION

- (1) That in the judgment of the Princes Risborough Town Council it is expedient for the Council to ~~oppose the High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Bill introduced in the Session of Parliament 2013-14.~~
- (2) That Cllr Alan Turner, Chairman of Princes Risborough Town Council and Susanne Griffiths, Clerk to the Town Council, take all necessary steps to carry the foregoing Resolution into effect, and that confirmation be given that James Stevens be authorised to sign the Petition of the Council against the Bill.

Cllr W Streule proposed and Cllr G Hall seconded that the above resolutions be agreed by the Princes Risborough Town Council.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, that the above resolutions be agreed and that Cllr A Turner and the Town Clerk take necessary action to ensure the work is progressed regarding the petition of HS2 on behalf of the Council.

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Town Council will take place on Tuesday 22nd April 2014 at 7.30pm in the Princes Centre, Clifford Road, Princes Risborough.

There being no further business to discuss the Meeting closed at 6.40 pm

Chairman  Date 22/04/14.