

IN PARLIAMENT  
HOUSE OF COMMONS  
SESSION 2013-14

**HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON - WEST MIDLANDS) BILL**

Against - on Merits - [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 Jeremy Beasley, Laura Buzzard, Rita Pulga, Michael O'Ware.**

SHEWETH as follows:-

- 1 A Bill (hereinafter referred to as "the bill") has been introduced and is now pending in your honourable House entitled "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 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, highway 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, provision about compulsory acquisition of land for regeneration, reinstatement works and provision about further high speed railway works. Provision is also made about the application of the Environment Impact Assessment Regulations.
- 6 The works proposed to be authorised by the Bill are specified in clause 1 and 2 of and Schedules 1 and 2 to the Bill. They consist of scheduled works, which are described in clauses 2 of and Schedules 2 and 3 to the Bill.
- 7 Your Petitioners are resident in 3 adjacent properties owned by the local authority the London Borough of Camden on Cobourg Street. Your Petitioners have been living in these properties for 20 years. Your Petitioners' properties are included in *Phase One* of construction of the HS2 railway line, with a terminus station in Euston. According to current proposals, the demolition of your Petitioners properties will be undertaken immediately upon the commencement of the construction project. This petition is therefore of primary urgency and importance.
- 8 Your Petitioners and their rights, interests and property are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioners object for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
- 9 Your Petitioners have, in these years, created a strong relationship of friendship, care, help, support and interdependency comparable to that of a family. Your Petitioners consider themselves a community and a support network that will need to be maintained.
- 10 You Petitioners share an enclosed garden, attached to the flat of one Petitioner, but used by all. Your Petitioners share in the care and responsibility of two domestic cats, including veterinary costs. The cats have full access to all of Your Petitioners homes, wherein they are cared for in equal measure, in the manner of an extended family environment. Your Petitioners humbly request that the Promoters of the Bill be made responsible for the preservation of their cohesive community life.

- 11 Cobourg Street is protected from the traffic noise and pollution of the roads that surround it. Your Petitioners wishes to point out this fact in contradiction to the unfair consideration by the Promoter that, by living in central London, we should be used to noise and traffic, and therefore have no entitlement to suitable provision / compensation for this aspect of our current quality of life.
- 12 As a result of this Bill, Your Petitioners are already facing the devastating impact of being forcibly removed from their homes. The possibility of being separated is the cause of considerable distress, and concern for both individual and collective welfare. Your Petitioners are not satisfied that full consideration has been given by the Promoter of the Bill regarding the social impact such a change will involve; nor that adequate provision has been made to expiate it.
- 13 Your Petitioners wish to be re-housed at a short distance from one another and in particular to have an equal environment and are humbly praying your Honourable House to ensure the Promoter of the Bill be made responsible for the funds to assist the council to find an appropriate re-location that accommodates the needs of our community, and this, at no cost for us or for the council.
- 14 Your Petitioners are concerned about the lack of assurance by the Promoter of the Bill with regard to their need to continue to care and provide for each other by continuing to live in close neighbourly proximity. This lack of assurance regarding the preservation of their community is compounding the social devastation of the Bill itself. Notwithstanding our opposition to the construction of the Bill, your Honourable House has decided to pass the proposed Bill and yet again we have not been contacted or reassured about our future relocation.
- 15 The Environmental Statement (*ES*) deposited with the Bill acknowledges that cumulative impacts arise from the construction of the Bill proposal, but does not assess them. An assessment of the cumulative impacts a proper baseline surveys and the delivery of direct information need to be undertaken by the Promoter in advance of the construction of the works in order that appropriate mitigation measures may be determined.
- 16 For the foregoing and connected reasons your Petitioners respectfully submit that, unless the Bill is amended as proposed above, in so far as it affects your Petitioners, it should not be allowed to pass into law.

17 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.

Jeremy Beasley .....

Laura Buzzard

Rita Pulga .....

Michael O'Ware

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AGAINST, By Counsel, &c.

Rita Pulga

