

IN PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF COMMONS

SESSION 2013-14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON - WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

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 David Arthur Twydell, Fay Frances Twydell, Derek Richard Howarth and Jacqueline Ellen Howarth

SHEWETH as follows:-

- 1 A Bill (hereinafter called "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 and 2 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 and Schedules 2 and 3 to the Bill.
- 7 Your Petitioners are the freehold, owners of the properties: 12 and 14 The Furrows, Harefield, Middlesex UB9 6AT and have lived in these houses since 1968. During this period your petitioners have enjoyed the benefits of a tranquil rural lifestyle. Your petitioners' properties are in sight of and within approximately 80 yards of Harvil Road which is to be used as the major route for construction traffic, including that for moving of soil re-location that has been generated by the high speed rail project.
- 8 Your petitioners and their interests and properties 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.
- 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 allege that the Government should have carried out a Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment prior to its decision to proceed with the HS2 Scheme in January 2012. Furthermore, your petitioners consider that the Environmental Statement fails to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, the HS2 proposal will cause harm to the open countryside and Green Belt land,

which is arguably contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework. Insufficient time has been allowed for comprehensive consideration of the Environmental Statement consultation responses and that there has been a wholly inadequate summary of these responses which has overtly omitted vast amounts of very significant information which should have been included.

- 11 The Bill includes powers for the Promoter of the Bill and the Nominated Undertaker to do construction works which are estimated to take 10 years to complete and will include lorry movements, the creation of dust and noise, poor air quality, and 24 hour working. This will inevitably lead to severe sleep deprivation for your petitioners and health concerns. No consideration of this has been given and therefore your petitioners would request your honourable House to require the Promoter and the Nominated Undertaker to evaluate these effects prior to commencement of the construction works.
- 12 Your petitioners principally use Harvil Road on most days of the week, including weekends, to travel by public bus (route U9) to shop in Uxbridge, appointments at Hillingdon Hospital, the cinema and other social pursuits. Therefore the inevitable closures at times of this road will result in your petitioners (all Senior Citizens) being isolated and the use of this road by construction vehicles will severely delay and increase the time and cost for your petitioners to access facilities, not only in Harvil Road but also at its junction with Swakeleys Road, Ickenham, which, even currently, is subject to severe delays. Additionally the continuous use by construction vehicles will make the crossing of Harvil Road (to the bus stop) dangerous and difficult to access in your petitioners' own vehicles. Alternatively, Moorhall Road can be used as an alternative by the petitioners (bus route 331) but all the disadvantages outlined above in respect of Harvil Road also apply and will be exacerbated due to the greater distance incurred from your petitioners' houses. Your petitioners consider that the intention to use this area of the route over such a long period for the disposal of soil and the construction of various infrastructure sites put an unfair burden on the locality and would therefore request your honourable House to require the Promoter and the Nominated Undertaker to re-evaluate the route of the construction vehicles.
- 13 Your petitioners' additional walking activity (for health and good general welfare), will be severely limited or curtailed in respect of

access around the HOAC lake and canal towpath which provides healthy exercise access to Uxbridge.

- 14 Visits to your petitioners by friends and relations will be unreasonably disrupted due to the construction work being undertaken.
- 15 Your petitioners' pleasure of living in a rural area will be devalued due to the effect of the scheme permanently disrupting the habitat of the wildlife and the flora in the area for which there has been insufficient regard, therefore the impact in this respect on the area should be realised and detailed investigations should be undertaken, and the necessary steps to be taken, to eradicate or minimise these effects.
- 16 Your petitioners challenge the fact that sufficient surveys etc. have been undertaken to the effects of soil movements on the water table and the consequent possibility of flooding in the area. A thorough investigation should therefore be carried out by the Promoter and Nominated Undertaker before work commences on the site.
- 17 Your petitioners would respectfully submit that the most effective method to eradicate the objections detailed above can be overcome by providing an extension or an additional tunnel under the route over the HOAC lake and adjacent areas. Alternatively most of the above objections could be minimised if your honourable House requires the Promoter and Nominated Undertaker to divert at least much of the soil disposal and the construction of various infrastructure sites to other areas nearer to their creation on the route.
- 18 The disruption that will be caused during and after construction of the project will, and is already, devaluing the price of your petitioners' properties and therefore, although not within the current framework for compensation, such recompense should be extended to your petitioners.
- 19 Harefield is unique being situated in a rural area and within the green belt yet also within the Greater London area. Your petitioners have lived in The Furrows for over 45 years and the extent of this scheme and the disruption it will cause over a long period of time during construction and thereafter is unreasonable and unfair to your petitioners' way of life that has been chosen and come to enjoy. Only

by implementing the above alternatives do your petitioners consider that a fair and reasonable status quo can be achieved.

20 Your petitioners object to the powers that are proposed to be provided by the Bill to the Promoter and the Nominated Undertaker and respectfully submit that the Bill should be amended or undertakings should be required so that HS2 Limited, the Promoter and/or the Nominated Undertaker are compelled to review the construction strategy for the project and its related works by considering their cumulative impacts on communities. Furthermore, they need to suggest and implement necessary changes from the results of that review before works design and construction strategies have been finalised or construction contractors are employed.

21 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.

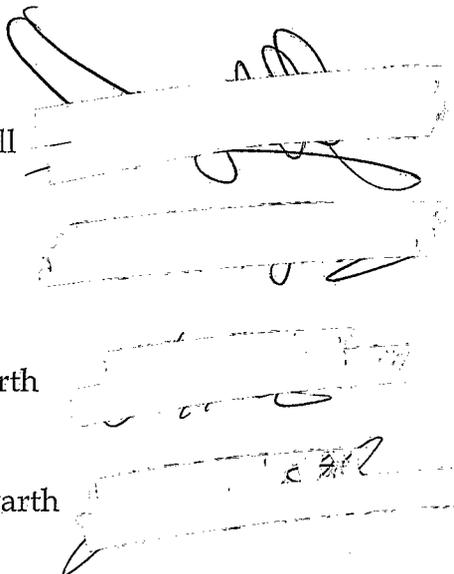
Signed

David Arthur Twydell

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