

IN PARLIAMENT
HOUSE OF COMMONS
SESSION 2013–14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON - WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

PETITION

Against the Bill - 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 PATRICK CHRISTOPHER FRIBBANCE

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 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 are specified in clauses 1 and 2 of and Schedules 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 Petitioner has lived his entire life locally, with the exception of a period when he was evacuated to Derby during World War II. He was born in Hampstead Road and grew up there with his three brothers and two sisters. In 1960 his family moved into a brand new flat in Silverdale on Regents Park Estate shortly after it was built around. Several years later he was transferred to smaller two bedroom flat in Oxenholme, one to the three tower blocks across the road in Ampt Hill Square Estate, as the initial tenant and has lived there ever since. He has worked locally all his life until his retirement thirty years ago. At the age of ninety although generally enjoying good health he has had bouts of illness over the past three years. Though active and sociable he is becoming increasingly anxious about his mobility and general ability to get about. He has no close family locally although a nephew provides support. He maintains a lifelong passion for the arts and enjoys occasional visits to the theatre. He takes great pleasure from the ability to relax in the relative tranquility he is able to enjoy within the confines of the estate.
8. Your Petitioners consider that his rights, interests and property are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which Your Petitioner objects for reasons, amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
9. As a resident living on Ampt Hill Square Estate and a member of the TRA Your Petitioner fully endorses the content, arguments and mitigation suggestions set out within the Petition submitted to your Honourable House by AMPTHILL SQUARE TENANTS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION in the name of FRAN HERON on behalf of all residents and with my express approval
10. In addition to all those concerns enumerated in the document referred to in [9] above, your Petitioner would like to draw the attention of your Honourable House to the following additional concerns.
 - Your Petitioner has grave concerns about the duration and extent of disruption that will impact his quality of life and is particularly concerned by the anticipated levels of noise, vibration, dust and air pollution that will inevitably accompany the planned construction of HS2.

- Your petitioner is very concerned that his security will be compromised and has bad memories of the levels of anti-social behavior and drug dealing that predated the comprehensive security measures put in place several years ago.
- When shown a map of the safeguarded area on the Estate, your Petitioner was greatly incensed by what he sees as an 'invasion by outsiders who will spoil the remainder of my life'. He is particularly upset that he does not feel he will be able to sit in the relatively fresh air and enjoy his surroundings with the construction compound and lorry movements within the Estate.
- He is particularly concerned by the route and extent of utility relocation through the green areas which will make it difficult to move around the Estate and the limitations to pedestrian movement generally.
- Your Petitioner is a lover of the natural environment and is horrified by its destruction. He is very upset indeed that HS2 Ltd have indicated they may require to remove a mature and majestic tree simply for the purposes of digging a trench. He recalls the same tree when it was in the back garden of one of the Victorian houses that previously occupied the square.
- Your Petitioner is also concerned about his ability to access buses and which may become inaccessible because of diversions.

Mitigation Measures during the Construction Phase

11. Your Petitioner ask your Honourable House to require the Promoters to implement the following mitigation measures:

- It is particularly important that the security and health and safety needs of residents come before anything else;
- If HS2 Ltd damage the security system they must make sure that there are security personnel available on a 24-hour basis and available immediately if required;
- Health and Safety measures to protect the community, but in particular children and old people and people who have difficulty getting about must be implemented;
- The amount of trenching through the estate and everything that it spoilt along the way is viewed as 'madness' and a 'sin';
- No trees should be cut down and 'people should not be allowed to ruin the environment';
- HS2 Ltd should provide courtesy buses for the elderly which are readily accessible;
- Bus diversions are not always clearly marked and this must be something that is done to help passengers to find out where buses are being diverted. A recent diversion of the 168 travelling south from Camden was diverted away from Eversholt Street with no information except that the bus stop was not in operation. This one diversion has caused considerable problems for local people;

- Your Petitioner does not know if the current plans are going to change but understands this will be the case, if they are going to change how he can know what he needs to ask for?

12. There are other clauses and provisions in the Bill which, if passed into law as they now stand will prejudicially affect Your Petitioner and his right, interests and property and for which no adequate provision is made to protect Your Petitioner.

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 themselves, 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:



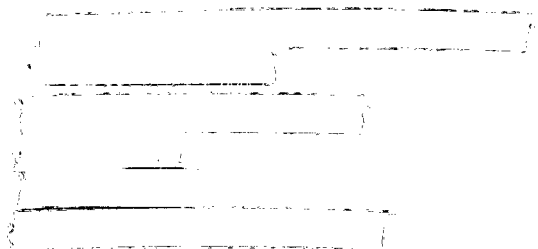
Your Petitioner PATRICK CHRISTOPHER FRIBBANCE

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