

0923

HOUSE OF
COMMONS
SESSION
2013 - 2014

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON TO WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

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 **SALLY KINDBERG**

SHEWETH as follows:-

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.”

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.

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.

Clauses 37 to 42 of the Bill deal with the regulatory regime for the railway.

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.

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.

Consultation

Your Petitioner believes that the Environmental Statement fails to provide sufficient information on HS2’s plans for Gloucester Avenue, for Primrose Hill Village and for

Camden as a whole. The lack of clear information in the Environmental Statement, and the problems involved in navigating the document, make it extremely difficult to understand the relationship between the very many individual proposals; or to assess to cumulative effect of all of them when taken together rather than, as in most instances in the Environmental Statement, individually.

- The ES contains no realistic assessment of the traffic consequences of these plans.
- The ES contains no up to date readings for existing NO2 and particulate pollution in Camden.
- The ES contains no plans to ensure that HS2's construction does not increase these levels.
- Although compulsory purchase orders were issued to property-holders in Berkley Road, Chalcot Road, Chalcot Square, Gloucester Avenue, Princess Road and Regent's Park Road, the ES contains no information about HS2's plans for work in these streets.
- The ES contains very many errors and omissions, as listed by the HS2 Action Alliance, particularly in the areas of road congestion and air pollution.
- • Your Petitioners oppose, as a general principle, the use of cycle routes for construction traffic. Gloucester Avenue is a marked and much-used cycle route.
- Your Petitioners are concerned about the risk to the vulnerable (cyclists and pedestrians) at junctions affected by construction works or where there are significant increases in traffic.
- Your Petitioner fears that many bus routes, including the C2, 31, 168 and 274, on which residents in Gloucester Avenue and Primrose Hill Village, especially the elderly, are heavily dependent, will be diverted and delayed; that commutes and school runs will become much more difficult and time-consuming; that the emergency services will struggle to get through; and that traffic chaos, including gridlock, will cause significant loss of time and profitability to many thousands of people. They also fear that HS2's plans will bring huge inconvenience and massive economic loss not only to Camden but to surrounding boroughs, including Islington and Westminster.

To address these fears, your Petitioners pray your honourable House to ensure the following:

- Your Petitioner requests you to look very closely at the Promoter's plans under Clause 3 and Schedule 4 of the Bill to make traffic orders. They ask you to examine the experience, and therefore competence, of the Promoter in traffic management. They ask you to place clear limits on the general powers of the Promoter to make traffic orders.
- Your Petitioner requests you to ensure that the Promoter provides a full traffic management plan for the period of construction. This needs to show that the legitimate entitlement of your Petitioners, in Gloucester Avenue, Primrose Hill Village and Camden as a whole, to a functioning traffic management system can be reconciled with the wholesale interference with the current system set out in the Bill.
- Your Petitioner requests your honourable House to give the question of traffic

management in Camden during construction your closest attention. They ask you to ensure that a full traffic management plan, which protects the rights of your Petitioners and of Camden as a whole, as well as the allowing the Promoter to carry out construction, is in place before the beginning of any construction.

- .. Your Petitioner requests you to limit the scale of development at Euston and the area around it, reducing the construction traffic associated with it. A double-deck station provides the obvious benefit of maintaining or even reducing the footprint of Euston Station rather than enlarging it.
- .. Your Petitioner asks you to provide a full assessment of the Promoter's plans to transport hazardous waste through Camden prior to any work starting.
- .. Your Petitioner requests that you prohibit construction traffic from using Gloucester Avenue, a marked cycle route. They also request that you prohibit construction traffic from using marked cycle routes anywhere in Camden. If the Promoter wishes to use any marked cycle route, it must provide an alternative, temporary cycle route.
- .. Your Petitioner requests that you instruct the Promoter to put in place measures to assure the safety of cyclists and pedestrians at junctions affected by construction works or where there are significant increases in traffic.
- ..

Air Quality

Your Petitioner is concerned that construction will lead to a significant increase in the major air pollutants Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) and Particulate Matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) in Gloucester Avenue, Primrose Hill Village and across Camden. There is now a scientific and medical consensus linking air pollution to serious health problems, including asthma, cancer and heart disease. Pollutant levels on major roads in Camden, measured in 2010, were well in excess of the legal limits imposed by Directive 2008/50/EC. These levels are unlikely to have decreased since then. The UK is already in breach of this directive and, in terms of its current compliance to this directive, rates twenty-eighth out of the twenty-eight members of the EU.

Your Petitioner fears construction will impact air quality in Gloucester Avenue and Primrose Hill Village from:

- .. Construction traffic on Adelaide Road, Bayham Street, Camden High Street, Chalk Farm Road, Delancey Street, England's Lane, Gloucester Avenue, Haverstock Hill, Jamestown Road, Oval Road, Parkway, Primrose Hill Road, Prince Albert Road and Regent's Park Road.
- .. Traffic congestion due to road closures and additional construction traffic.

YOUR PETITIONER THEREFORE HUMBLY PRAYS 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 such of the clauses and provisions of the Bill as affect 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
Petitioners in the premises as your Honourable House shall deem meet.
AND your Petitioners will ever pray, &c

SIGNED
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