

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 WILLIAM ADJEI AND CASSANDRA MERCY (BOTWE) ADJEI

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, Mr Adjei, came to the United Kingdom from Ghana in 1970 and decided to remain in Britain. He met and married his wife Cassandra and moved into Ampt Hill Square Estate in September 1985. Cassandra was already established in the accommodation since 1970. They brought up four children who are now all grown up and have homes of their own. Both now retired, they were previously employed locally. In October 2000 your Petitioners exercised their Right to Buy option and are leaseholders of the London Borough of Camden. The decision to purchase in part was due to the fact that the Estate is centrally located and close to amenities. They also enjoyed the settled community and took great enjoyment from the environment and open aspect and greenery of Ampt Hill Square. Recent investment in the Estate has brought about great improvements in security and peace of mind which is now threatened.
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, as residents on Ampt Hill Square Estate and members of the TRA fully endorse the content, arguments and mitigation suggestions set out within the Petition submitted to your Honourable House by AMPHILL SQUARE TENANTS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION in the name of FRAN HERON on behalf of all residents and with our express approval
10. In addition to those mentioned in the document referred to above [9] your Petitioners would like to draw the attention of your Honourable House to the following additional concerns.
11. Your Petitioners have grave concerns about the duration and extent of disruption that they will face during the construction period of ten years or more.
12. As leaseholders your Petitioners are extremely concerned about potential financial loss due to depressed market value because of blight caused by the proximity and duration of constructing HS2. Your Petitioners are now in their early seventies and consider that the remainder of their lives will be 'high-jacked' for no good reason and no personal benefit.
13. During the many years of construction, your Petitioners will overlook from their kitchen and living room windows an apocalyptic sight of devastation, demolition, excavation and eventual construction. This constitutes a significant loss of visual amenity.

14. According to the Environmental Statement, the Promoter contends that the erection of hoardings up to 3.6 metres in height will constitute noise barriers. In the case of your Petitioners who live on the fourteenth floor facing the epicentre of the destructive forces on which they have no influence, the likelihood is rather than control noise levels that the noise will be deflected upwards straight towards and into their home. In the Environmental Statement the Promoter confirms that there will be significant acoustic impacts on Amphill Square Estate.
15. Your Petitioners are extremely concerned about noise, dust and pollution as a result of all the demolition and excavation in close proximity to their home as well as the pollution caused by hundreds of HGV movements on all sides of and indeed within the Estate. All of these will not only cause nuisance but are potentially injurious to health. Indeed, the cumulative impacts on your Petitioners will, if not satisfactorily mitigated, remove their right to the quiet enjoyment of their home. Of concern to your Petitioners is the fact that air pollutant levels already breach European Union legislation and the Promoters admit there will be a significant increase in NO₂ levels and specifically mentions Amphill Square as being impacted.
16. The statement of the former Director of Public Prosecutions, Kier Starmer, considers that the failure of the Promoter to carry out an adequate Risk Assessment of the cumulative significant adverse impacts constitutes a breach of your Petitioners human rights enshrined in European Union legislation.
17. Your Petitioners are concerned by the suggestion that there is an increased risk of road traffic accidents due to increased traffic citing several locations included in the Promoter's own publications in close proximity to Amphill Square Estate and in particular the junction of Eversholt Street and Lidlington Place as well as internal to the Estate since HGV traffic will be driven within the estate. Of particular concern and apprehension to this increased level of accident risk is when the grandchildren visit.
18. Since the large investment in Regeneration on Amphill Square which ended several years ago, vast improvements have been made to the landscaping of the estate and over the past year the shrubbery has matured and provides an attractive backdrop to the tranquil atmosphere on the Estate. Your Petitioners consider it ludicrous to suggest the removal of trees adjacent to the railway corridor, including Eversholt Street and Barnby Street, will constitute an asset and 'open up views' when this is nothing more than environmental vandalism.
19. There are other clauses and provisions in the Bill which, if passed into law as they now stand will judicially affect Your Petitioners and their rights, interests and property and for which no adequate provision is made to protect Your Petitioners.

Mitigation Measures during the Construction Phase

20. Your Petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable House seriously reconsider the terminus at Old Oak Common at least on a temporary basis where the Borough of

Hammersmith and Fulham is only too happy to welcome the improvements and regeneration that the project will bring to the area

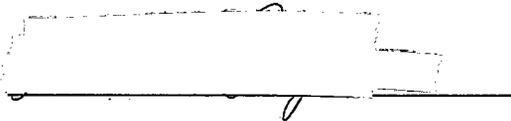
21. Your Petitioners request your Honourable House to require the Promoters to implement the following mitigation measures.

- Reassurance that Health and Safety within and without the Estate will be treated as a priority at all times during construction;
- The London Borough of Camden together with all branches of the emergency services should draw up a plan prior to any commencement of work to cover their needs and to which the Promoter must comply; compliance must be strictly adhered to;
- Adequate noise and air pollution mitigation measures must be installed at source and to individual accommodation. This would include installation of air filtration systems;
- To reduce adverse impacts from HGV traffic all spoil, waste and materials to be transported to and from the construction site should be by rail as a default position;
- Should your Petitioners need to sell their leasehold during the construction of the new station, they need to be guaranteed equivalent value at a non-impacted market price + 10%.
- Your Petitioners should be able to move on a temporary basis financed by the Promoters if the levels of noise become unbearable.

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 Petitioners in the premises as Your Honourable House shall deem meet.

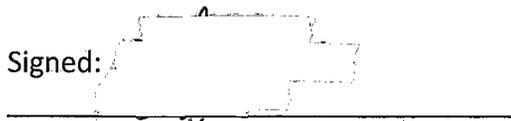
AND Your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Signed:



WILLIAM ADJEI, Your first Petitioner

Signed:



CASSANDRA MERCY (BOTWE) ADJEI, your second Petitioner

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AGAINST, by Counsel, &c

WILLIAM AND CASSANDRA ADJEI

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