

IN PARLIAMENT
HOUSE OF COMMONS
SESSION 2013–14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON – 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 William Crane SHEWETH as follows:-

- 1 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.”
- 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 (“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.

Your Petitioner

- 7 Your Petitioner is a resident in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Beauty (AONB), who will be directly and specially affected by both the operation and construction of the proposed HS2 line.
- 8 Your Petitioner is a 10 year old boy who lives with his parents in Ferndale Ballinger Road, South Heath, Buckinghamshire HP16 9QH. This property is in the South Heath area of Great Missenden parish, a community of over 300 homes that depends on the

facilities of Great Missenden and surrounding villages/towns, and will be permanently blighted by HS2.

- 9 Your Petitioner moved to South Heath 8 years ago with his family to live in the AONB and to live somewhere more tranquil than London.
- 10 Your Petitioner is in year 5 and goes to school in Amersham which would mean that he would have to cross the HS2 line each time he needed to get to school – twice every day. Your Petitioner is worried that he shall be late to school lots of days due to traffic delays and he is worried he will have to get up much earlier in order to get to school on time.
- 11 Your Petitioner enjoys going for bike rides in the woods around his home and likes going on walks with his family at weekends through the footpaths at Sibleys Copse, and the fields behind Potter Row and at the back of South Heath. Many of these footpaths and the woods will be destroyed and once they have gone there is no getting them back. Your Petitioner is also very concerned about the destruction of many of the ancient woodlands in the AONB – ancient woodlands take hundreds of years to grow and once they are cut down it will take another couple of hundred years to grow another one. Some of the historical attractions inside the ancient woodlands are very interesting such as the Saxon fort and this will be completely wiped out and that is a historical attraction which is irreplaceable. A large part of Sibley's Coppice will be devastated by the construction of the green tunnel, and your Petitioner is worried that the fun will be wiped out for children of his age and of all ages because walking the dog and playing in the woods will not be fun when there is a train rushing past every 4 minutes.
- 12 Your Petitioner's home is within 300 metres of the line of HS2. This means that it will be extremely noisy for the petitioner and will result in hardly any sleep so he will be tired and will work less well during school. The noise could result in slight deafness which can be a problem in later life. Also HS2 being so close would result in getting places later which would mean having to leave earlier which can affect schedule. Your Petitioner is also worried that he may have to move house to get far away from HS2 and he doesn't particularly want to move because he likes his house and the area he is in.
- 13 Your Petitioner likes nature very much and knows that if HS2 happens it will affect wildlife – for example badgers have to take a special route every night to catch prey and if the line crosses their route they will be run over because they will not be able to find another route. Other animals which might be affected are otters which live in rivers and streams which will be destroyed if HS2 goes through them. Barn owls will also be killed because farm buildings and sheds with barn owls living in them will be knocked down and also the owls will fly into the trains which will be going 250mph and which no bird can survive. Your Petitioner also likes trees very much – they are very good for the environment as they take in CO2 and give out oxygen – if lots of trees are knocked down then this could affect global warming. Your Petitioner does not consider that HS2 is very environmentally friendly because in order to build all the trains which will go every 4 minutes they will have to use gases and coal in making the trains.
- 14 Your Petitioner is also worried about the air quality during the construction of HS2 because of lots of dust. Your Petitioner is worried about his sister who suffers from asthma and this may get worse because of inhaling all the dust.
- 15 Your Petitioner does not think that the "green tunnel" in South Heath is very green and thinks that there is a better way to build HS2.
- 16 Your Petitioner would like to see a proper tunnel through South Heath deep underground through the AONB and the Chilterns or even possibly rerouting HS2 out of AONB's. This would result in less damage to the environment and you would be able to keep a lot of the ancient woodland and wouldn't destroy the wildlife habitats of many animals. Your Petitioner's parents have been working very hard against HS2 for many years and your Petitioner and his parents would be devastated if all the work on the tunnel didn't go

through as the petitioner has not seen much of his parents lately as they have been working so hard on HS2.

- 17 Your Petitioner's rights interests and property are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioner objects for reasons, amongst others, hereinafter appearing.

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 so much of the Bill as affects the property, rights and interests of your Petitioner 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 Petitioner will ever pray, &c.

Name William Crane

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