

01IN PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF COMMONS

SESSION 2013–14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON - WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

PETITION

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 NETLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

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 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 Petitioners are the Governing Body of Netley Primary School, Netley Street, London NW1 3EJ on the Regents Park Estate in the London Borough of Camden. The school has existed on this site since 1883, and is attended by 440 children aged from 3-11yrs including 20 children with multiple disabilities in specialist ASD resource base. This is an area of high deprivation, and we have a higher than national average number of children with English as an additional language, free school meals, pupil mobility and statements of special needs amongst other indices. We are a joyous community, where our multilingual children are happy and achieving well in our fast improving school. We are just nearing the completion of a major capital rebuild, and our children were looking forward to a period of stability for their younger siblings. We share our campus with Robson House, a primary learning support unit, whose pupils are also affected by HS2 like the pupils of our school.
8. Your Petitioners and the rights of the children at the school and their families are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioners object for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
9. Your Petitioners' school is mentioned in the HS2 Hybrid Bill phase one Environmental Statement on which Parliament consulted in February, Robson House is not even mentioned. However it is wrongly stated that HS2 will have no effect on Netley Primary School. This cannot be true when the proposals mean that the school will be surrounded with the construction of a massive infrastructure project for ten years, something that cannot be fixed with a bit of double glazing. This relentless disturbance means the school pupils will have no peace in their own homes to study and relax, and will suffer constant noise and increased pollution. They lose their local play areas, and many families will have their homes demolished, and their livelihoods threatened, particularly those who work in Drummond Street. This will be for a whole decade so for a baby born now, their entire childhood will be spent living in a construction

area, and then a further eight years while they are at secondary school for the over-track and station development described in March 2017. As well as the loss of amenity, and health risks of pollution and relentless noise, they will never know peace, as construction is proposed to be 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year for ten years.

10. There will be satellite compounds at Granby Terrace and Park Village East as well as the main compound across the road from our school in the A400 Hampstead Road at the National Temperance Hospital. There will be over 300 lorries daily estimated to be travelling to these compounds. Due to closures in the surrounding roads to rebuild the four bridges, particularly Hampstead Road bridge, there will be major additional traffic along Stanhope Street which will be the main entrance of our school when the new building is completed for September 2014.
11. Your Petitioners are really concerned about safe-routes to the alternative playgrounds, and safe routes to school and the extremely prolonged noise and disruption of construction during all our school hours, as well as recreation and home time and when pupils are trying to study and sleep. The increased pollution will impact on everyone's health, shortening lifespans, and also causing sickness and death for the vulnerable. The mitigations proposed seem to your petitioners to focus on running the railway once it is built whereas our concern is the ten or eighteen years of massively disruptive major construction that will impact on the whole duration of the childhoods of the children at your Petitioners' school. The construction code offers little protection as almost all the types of works are exempt from the normal controls of working in core hours.
12. Your Petitioners ask that you direct the use of rail rather than lorries to move spoil and machinery, that lorries be given 5mph speed limits in residential areas, and that heavy and additional traffic may not travel when we are entering school 8:30- 9am and leaving at 3:30-4pm. Your petitioners ask you to arrange to enforce this and for us to know where to report to a local office so that any breach is immediately remedied.
13. Your petitioners ask for baseline pollution, noise and dirt measures, and local strictly enforced compliance, and to receive an environmental impact assessment for our area, and for this to give appropriate weighting to the impact on our school and community, and equal opportunity assessments and health assessments. Such assessments need to address the combined and cumulative effects of danger to children and vulnerable people, noise, vibration, pollution, traffic congestion, loss of amenity, visual intrusion, road and bridge closures and night time working. Pollution in the Euston area is said to be already three times the European guidelines, and your Petitioners

are very worried about this being increased, and ask for a decisive role for the local council in agreeing any night-time working, with representation on the panels/committees from our community.

14. Your Petitioners are concerned that people will not want to come to our school – if it is dirty and noisy and dangerous to walk to, which means that the number of pupils could drop, and our school will not receive enough money from the government to run effectively. Your Petitioners ask for budget safety netting so that our staffing structure can stay in place, and our pupils can continue to make improvements in learning and achievement.
15. Your Petitioners ask for additional support such as social workers for vulnerable families, particularly those who will be compelled to move from our community. People who are going to have to move do not yet know where they will be re-housed and the stress and uncertainty is upsetting our community.
16. Your Petitioners ask for fines to be imposed on HS2 whenever they work at night or breach other of our rights to peaceful enjoyment of our homes, and this money be put into a local community benefit fund for us all. Your Petitioners take the view that fines, similar to the ones imposed on digging up the roads, will focus the minds of HS2 on minimising disruption to the local community instead of only thinking about their railway construction convenience. It seems to your Petitioners that the whole of these proposals are drawn up for the convenience of the construction firms and the railways, and no thought for the impact on our community and school. Your Petitioners ask for you to direct that due account is taken of local representatives from the community in groups with powers to resolve difficulties as they arise.
17. Your Petitioners ask for every household to have compensation money that they can use according to their needs – to stay in hotels when noise is at its worse and they need to study or it is too hot to have the windows closed. Your Petitioners also ask for one day a week of complete respite from construction. Normally this would be on Sunday. Every person is entitled to escape from the relentless noise, and it will make each week during these ten years more tolerable if your Petitioners know that there will be one day a week when we can relax and study in peace.
18. Consultation about HS2 has not been genuine, and the views in responses your Petitioners have made have not been taken into account. Documents have been massive, and timescales too short. There has not been enough information such as actual assessments, and how such intense and prolonged construction will impact on the community. Depositing a petition is yet another hurdle in a long series of consultations, all with procedures and

deadlines, which make it genuinely difficult to contribute and people being worn down. -Your Petitioners' school is, however, a rights respecting school, and as well as defending our right to a home life under the Human Rights Act, we are working on how best to ensure a good education for ourselves, as well as all the children in the world, whose right to food, health, education and safety is also undermined and threatened by the actions of governments.

19. Euston is poorly served by these HS2 proposals, no-one can pretend that any of this is good news for our area – there will be maximum disruption and virtually no developmental advantage. Families in Euston are to bite the bullet and accept detriment to our community and individual financial loss without even reasonable compensation, for something that is purportedly to benefit the nation. But there is nothing in the proposals presented to convince your Petitioners that HS2 will benefit others: it will be out of date before it is complete, the calculations and plans are based on false premises of cost benefit and on out of date local information, and need to be redone. The costs simply increase exponentially, without any compensation increase. People will travel to London as they always have, which increase in capacity could be achieved by two additional carriages on each existing train and longer platforms. Currently trains are not even utilising two thirds of the available track and time.
20. Your Petitioners ask for equitable and costed compensation proposals, and coherent and adequate mitigation measures. Britain is a civilised country, where we do not just demolish people's homes and drive railroads through their neighbourhoods without looking after them properly. When did the people who live around Euston become expendable in the view of the government and undeserving of equitable compensation?
21. Your Petitioners ask for proper consideration and evaluation of proposals that have been presented to HS2 such as double deck down two which would mean the new tracks for HS2 could be constructed within the current footprint of Euston station. Shortening the duration of construction could be achieved by stopping at least temporarily at Old Oak Common instead of keeping the rail service into Euston going during construction. Tunnelling instead of over-ground for the link to HS1 could be considered and also tunnelling the approach to Euston instead of rebuilding the retaining wall in the cutting and the bridges at Parkway, Mornington Street Granby Terrace and Hampstead Road. If the bridges are rebuilt, then they need to be in keeping with the current Victorian streetscape, not the ugly modern basic utilitarian engineering bridges that are proposed. In particular, Hampstead Bridge is apparently going to be twice as long and six metres higher. It will dominate our neighbourhood, overlook our homes and be a massive visual intrusion. Your

Petitioners ask therefore ask for it to be graceful and beautiful with architectural merit for future generations.

22. There are far too many shortcomings and errors in the current proposals and your Petitioners do not yet have a really good insight into what is intended for us here. Ten years of construction is not a temporary disturbance. The vast number of demolished homes (216 in the Euston area) and properties that will be affected, the intensity and very long duration of the proposed construction work in such a densely populated and expensive district, and the changes to Euston station will all deeply affect the children at Netley Primary and their families and community.
23. For the foregoing and connected reasons your Petitioners respectfully submit that, unless the Bill is amended as proposed above, so far affecting your Petitioners, should not be allowed to pass into law.
24. 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 Petitioners in the premises as your Honourable House shall deem meet.

AND your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Signed DOROTHEA JOY HACKMAN

On behalf of Netley Primary School Governing Body

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