

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 PATRICIA ROWE

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.

7 Your Petitioner is Patricia Rowe, resident of Red Lane, Burton Green

8 Your Petitioners and their rights, interests and property are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioner objects for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.

9 DETAILED IMPACTS

Construction Noise and Dust:

Your petitioner notes that my property and especially my garden will be affected not only during the construction phase but also when the line is operational. Over the last 64 years, due to the exertions of my late parents and myself, the garden has evolved into a beautiful area. However the enjoyment of this amenity is threatened by the dust and dirt of the "works" on the line and the noise of construction traffic. Even after construction, noise from trains will destroy the tranquillity of my garden.

Your petitioner requests that operating hours be limited to allow for continued enjoyment of my garden in this rural location and that adequate sound barriers be installed when trains are operational.

Your petitioner believed, at the time of the last election, that it would be in fact "back to the drawing board," to quote Mr Jeremy Wright MP; that this section of the line would be re-routed. If this is not considered, the petitioner urges that the longer deep bored tunnel, Option F should be built. This would overcome almost all the problems that Burton Green residents face.

Temporary and Permanent Loss of the Greenway:

Your petitioner uses this facility and adjacent public footpaths for walking for pleasure and healthy exercise, taking my dogs for walks. During construction, these routes and facilities will be damaged so much that they will be impossible to use. On completion, the greenway will never be the same. The tranquillity and the landscape will forever be diminished.

Your petitioner reminds the Honourable Commons that alternative areas for walking and dog walking lie in Kenilworth town itself, a car drive away, which environmentally is inappropriate.

Your petitioner notes that Tunnel F would preserve the Greenway.

Traffic Impacts:

Your petitioner is extremely concerned about the impacts of traffic during the period of construction. The roads in Burton Green are not suited to heavy goods vehicles. They will not only be dangerous but also likely to be muddy and dirty.

Your petitioner requests that more thought be given to construction routes and again notes that tunnel F would resolve almost all these difficulties.

Your petitioner is also anxious about the implications of increased traffic over a wider area. Free access to roads and transport to Kenilworth town, Leamington Spa and Warwick will be severely reduced. The dangers of this will be considerable: your petitioner states that as a pensioner, access to doctors' surgery or hospital in Warwick is essential, as is access to Vets in Leamington. Residents' health or lives may well be endangered.

Your petitioner requests that flow of road traffic is maintained at a safe level to avoid potential fatalities.

Compensation

Your petitioner recognises that if tunnel F is adopted, my future livelihood would be secured. However if this does not happen, your petitioner would expect to be fairly treated.

Your petitioner states that, soon after the initial proposal for the HS2 scheme, sales of properties in Burton Green were negatively affected. In 2010/2011 I had my home for sale and, despite many viewings over 20 months, no offer for purchase was received. Feedback from prospective purchasers was dominated by the proposed HS2 route, approximately 300 metres away from the property. In short the property is blighted and my freedom, as I age, to downsize is now gone. It is clear that I, and similarly affected residents are "subsidising" HS2 through the loss of value of our homes.

Your petitioner notes that a proposal for a property bond has been rejected. Your petitioner requests that full compensation be guaranteed when residents need to, or choose to, sell. Justice demands fairness and the present situation has impacted on my physical and mental health.

Your petitioner believes over 250,000 households may be similarly blighted but at present are excluded from just compensation. The petitioner believes that the HS2 project has been under-costed, resulting in all these members of society being instantly made second class citizens of England.

Your petitioner's distress, disbelief and anger is ever present and now is set to continue to the end of my life. I have always been *hard working*, saved sensibly and *done the right thing* to quote Mr Cameron but this petitioner sees this injustice as state-theft from its citizens.

10 For the foregoing and connected reasons your Petitioner respectfully submit that, unless the Bill is amended as proposed above, the Bill so far as affecting your Petitioner, should not be allowed to pass into law.

11 There are other clauses and provisions of the Bill which, if passed into law as they now stand will prejudicially affect your Petitioner and her rights, interests and property and for which no adequate provision is made to protect your Petitioner

YOUR PETITIONER 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 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 Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

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