

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 BETTY OWEN

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 Betty Owen resident of Cromwell Lane, Burton Green.

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 petitioner is a resident of the Alms Houses, managed by Berkswell Charities. I am ninety-one years of age and I live within the sixty metres of the route. I have lived in Burton Green for over twenty years and I do not want to leave. My daughter lives close to me on Cromwell Lane.

Your petitioner is directly affected by the construction of the line which goes straight through the heart of the village and is concerned by the problems of noise, dust and traffic. But your petitioner is especially concerned by the impact on the community. Burton Green is a close and supportive community. Many people come to live in Burton Green and stay here, not only because of the pleasant environment but also because they feel part of a real community. Sadly, because so many live close to the line, many people will leave, not because they want to but because they are so fearful of the impact of construction.

Your petitioner sees HS2 as a dagger through the heart of the community and is anxious that the community spirit will be severely reduced.

This petitioner is also concerned about the future of our village school. My grandchildren attended this school and is anxious about whether parents outside Burton Green will continue to support this school. The loss of our school would be a disaster for our community.

Over four years we have worried about our future and it seems that our suffering is never ending.

Your petitioner is also concerned about the Greenway which in previous years I enjoyed so much.

Yourpetitioner requests that if HS2 goes ahead, a deep bored tunnel is built for this would overcome almost all the problems in Burton Green.

10 For the foregoing and connected reasons your Petitioner respectfully submits 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 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.



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