

IN PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF COMMONS

SESSION 2013-14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON - WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

Against the Bill - 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 Mr Bryan Arnold and Mrs Joan Arnold

SHEWETH as follows:-

- 1 A Bill (hereinafter called "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 ("Phase One of HS2") are specified in clauses 1 and 2 of and Schedule 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 freehold owners of the property 5a Priory Cottages, Harefield, Middlesex. Your petitioners enjoy the benefits of a tranquil semi-rural lifestyle and are now in retirement. Your petitioners have impaired mobility and impaired health requiring regular hospital appointments. Your petitioners' property is in on Moorhall Road which is to be used as a major route for construction traffic.
- 8 Your petitioners and their interests and property would be injuriously and prejudicially affected by the provisions of the Bill if passed into law in their present form and they accordingly object to the Bill for the reasons, amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
- 9 The Bill includes powers for the Promoter of the Bill and the Nominated Undertaker to do construction works which are estimated to take 10 years to complete and will include lorry movements, the creation of dust and noise, poor air quality, and 24 hour working. This will inevitably lead to severe sleep deprivation for your petitioners and health concerns. No consideration of this has been given and therefore your petitioners would request your honourable House to require the Promoter and the Nominated Undertaker to evaluate these effects prior to commencement of the construction works.
- 10 Your petitioners' property opens directly onto Moorhall Road close to its junction with Harvil Road, allowing your petitioners the vehicle access to their property they need because of impaired mobility. This location will be severely congested with construction traffic serving several major construction sites in the surrounding area for several years, making it difficult and dangerous to manoeuvre a vehicle in and out of your petitioners' property.

- 11 Your petitioners' access to shops and local public transport especially bus services adjacent to their property will be severely restricted by construction traffic on Moorhall Road which will cause difficulty and danger to your petitioners when they attempt to cross that road on foot.
- 12 Visits to your petitioners' home by friends, family will be unreasonably disrupted due to the construction work proposed in the Bill.
13. Your petitioners require regular visits to health services in the village of Harefield and at Mount Vernon Hospital, requiring access along Moorhall Road and Harvil Road. Your petitioners are concerned that construction traffic congestion on these roads throughout the construction period will cause delays to their attendance at these services and may jeopardise their treatment.
14. Your petitioners are seriously concerned about noise from the construction traffic that will pass close to their property throughout the construction period. Their concerns about this and about congestion are founded on current experience of increasing HGV movements on Harvil and Moorhall Roads, which have already reached nuisance level. Your petitioners have raised these matters with the London Borough of Hillingdon and are now concerned that any mitigation strategies identified to address existing problems will be overwhelmed by the much larger amount of construction traffic proposed by the Bill.
- 15 Your petitioners are concerned that the construction work proposed in the Bill will aggravate flood risk on local roads, notably Harvil Road and Moorhall Road, on which they depend for access to their property.
- 16 Your petitioners submit that the most effective way to address the problems detailed above would be by placing the route in tunnel throughout the Colne Valley area, which would greatly reduce the need for surface-level construction work in the area. Alternatively most of the above problems could be minimised if your honourable House requires the Promoter and Nominated Undertaker to remove Moorhall Road from the construction traffic route plan.
- 17 The disruption that will be caused during and after construction of the project is likely to devalue the price of your petitioners' property which your petitioners may require to sell to provide for their care in future years and therefore, although not within the current framework for compensation, such recompense should be extended to your petitioners.
- 18 Your petitioners object to the powers that are proposed to be provided by the Bill to the Promoter and the Nominated Undertaker and respectfully submit that the Bill should be amended or undertakings should be required so that HS2 Limited, the Promoter and/or the Nominated Undertaker are compelled to review the construction

strategy for the project and its related works by considering their cumulative impacts on communities. Furthermore, they need to suggest and implement necessary changes from the results of that review before works design and construction strategies have been finalised or construction contractors are employed.

- 19 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 Petitioner in the premises as your Honourable House shall deem meet.

AND your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Signed

Bryan Arnold

Joan Arnold

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PETITION OF

Arnold and Arnold

Against By Counsel &c

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