

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 Long Itchington Parish Council

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 London 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, provisions 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 Schedule 2 to the Bill.
 - 7 Your Petitioner is the Parish Council of Long Itchington in the County of Warwickshire , representing a community of some 2242 residents
 - 8 Your Petitioner and its rights, interests and property are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioner objects for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
 - 9 The Bill proposes to run the railway through a cutting to the east of Offchurch, Warwickshire. The effect of this cutting will be to close Long Itchington Road at Offchurch, closing a major commuter route and isolating wildlife from neighbouring woods and fields. The road is a primary route for residents of Long Itchington, Stockton, Napton, Birdingbury and neighbouring villages to their work and amenities in Kenilworth, Leamington Spa and Warwick. Your petitioner feels that the consequent road diversion will increase the dangers at a hazardous junction with the Fosse Way by causing traffic to undertake right turns off this busy fast road. The dangers are compounded by the proposal to site a construction materials depot in the vicinity , thus adding a large number of heavy vehicles to the traffic at this junction. The proposed road diversion takes traffic along a wholly unsuitable narrow lane, Welsh Road West. Your petitioner requires a green tunnel to be built across the cutting, thus allowing commuter traffic to pass across, together with enough green space to provide a viable wildlife corridor. The junction of Long Itchington Road and the Fosse Way should then be made into a five-armed roundabout, so that the heavy vehicles using the materials depot may turn safely into and out of their depot.
- Your petitioner is also concerned about damage, danger, disruption and dust in this peaceful rural area during the construction process. Your petitioner requires the Code of Construction Practice to be incorporated into the Bill, or such other effective measure to ensure that enforceable sanctions can be applied to any breach of the Code. This should be backed up by local Enforcement Officers, with strong powers to implement sanctions. These Officers should be employed by the relevant Local Authority and paid for by the Nominated Undertaker.
- 10 Your Petitioner is particularly concerned about the extent of loss of ancient woodland and harm to biodiversity that will result from the Bill as currently proposed and the impacts of the construction of works and other proposed activities on ancient woodland.

Your Petitioner asks that the Bill should not become law unless proposals are brought forward by HS2 which significantly reduce the extent of loss of ancient woodland. Because ancient woodland is irreplaceable, its loss cannot be mitigated, only compensated for. Your Petitioner is very concerned that the compensation measures proposed by the Promoters are inadequate. Where limited loss is inevitable greater compensation should be provided and it should be guaranteed for the future.

Your Petitioner is also concerned about indirect effects on ancient woodland, namely Long Itchington Wood, from the construction of HS2 including adverse impacts from noise, light and air pollution, and working within and adjacent to ancient woodland. Further mitigation of these impacts, such as large buffers and relocation of working sites, should be provided if the scheme goes ahead.

- 11 For the foregoing and connected reasons your Petitioners respectfully submit that, unless the Bill is amended as proposed above, it should not be allowed to pass into law.
- 12 There are other clauses and provisions of the Bill which, if passed into law as they now stand will prejudicially affect your Petitioner and its rights, interests and property and for which no adequate provision is made to protect your Petitioners.

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 it 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 its 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.

[Signature of Petitioner in person, or Agent for the Petitioner]

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PETITION OF Long Itchington Parish Council

AGAINST, By Counsel, &c.

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BACKSHEET:

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