

IN PARLIAMENT
HOUSE OF COMMONS
SESSION 2013–14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON – WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

Against – on Merits – [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 East Acton Golf Links Residents' Association.

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 (referred to in this Petition as "the Promoter"), 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 Petitioner is East Acton Golf Links Residents' Association (hereinafter referred to as "the Association"). The Association is a collective of residents living in the Golf Links neighbourhood of East Acton, in north-west London, in the London Borough of Ealing. The Golf Links neighbourhood comprises about 600 residences in about 1-2 square kilometres of suburban streets bounded by Old Oak Common Lane to the east, Long Drive to the north and west, and the A40 / Western Avenue to the south (hereinafter referred to as "the Association's area"). The Association is a voluntary, non-for-profit organisation, governed by a constitution and standing orders. Membership of the Association is open to all residents of the Association's area, and its activities are organised by a managing committee, headed by a Chair (who is elected annually by members attending the annual general meeting). Members of the Association are either property owners or long term tenants. More information about the Association, its activities, and the Association's area can be found on the Association's website: www.eaglra.wordpress.com.
- 8 Works authorised under the Bill will be carried out in close proximity to the Association's area. Your Petitioner has passed a resolution to oppose the Bill in its current form. Your Petitioner and the rights, interests and property of the Association's membership will be injuriously affected by the provisions of the Bill, to which Your Petitioner objects for the reasons, amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
- 9 The Association's area and its members will be significantly affected by works authorised by the Bill and Your Petitioner is very concerned that the mitigation measures proposed by the Promoter will not go far enough to allay these concerns.
- 10 Your Petitioner's first concern is air quality. The works authorised by the Bill will give rise to adverse air quality impacts as a result of demolition, construction, and traffic flow changes. Your Petitioner believes this will result in air quality objectives being exceeded as regards particulate and Nitrogen Oxide concentrations locally. Your Petitioner is very concerned that the Promoter has not provided sufficient detail as to how this will be mitigated to ensure that any negative impacts on the Association's area, its members, and local residents generally will be minimised. Your Petitioner respectfully suggests that the Promoter be required to monitor air quality and control emissions from vehicles

and plant within the construction zone such that at all times they remain within limits set by the local authority: London Borough of Ealing.

- 11 Your Petitioners second concern is noise pollution and vibration. Your Petitioner notes from the Environmental Statement deposited with the Bill that “reasonably practicable measures” will be deployed to mitigate noise and vibration effects arising from the construction and operation of the rail line, but that limited actual mitigation measures are specified in the Statement. Your Petitioner believes that robust mitigation measures are needed to ensure the Association’s area, its members, and local residents generally are not affected by noise and vibration. Your Petitioner respectfully suggests that the Promoter be required to conduct a detailed assessment of likely sources of noise and vibration from the construction and operation of the new station, and receptors of that noise and vibration. Your Petitioner respectfully requests that the Promoter be required to put in place such mitigation measures it must agree with the local authority: London Borough of Ealing.
- 12 Traffic congestion on Old Oak Common Lane, particularly at peak hours and where it connects to the A40 / Western Avenue, is already a problem. Your Petitioner is concerned that additional congestion will be caused both during and after construction of the new station and rail line, resulting in drivers seeking “rat runs” through the Association’s area. The Association’s area is characterised by quiet, low density suburban residences with front and back gardens, interspersed with public green spaces, places of worship, schools, and allotments. The calm, relative tranquility, and absence of significant vehicle traffic passing through the Association’s area presently makes its pavements and open areas relatively safe for young families, the old and infirm. This needs to be preserved. Your Petitioner respectfully requests an undertaking from the Promoter that it will use rail and water transportation during construction instead of the local road network - unless use of the road network can be shown to be absolutely necessary - in order to limit congestion on the local road network and lessen the incentive on drivers to find rat runs through the Association’s area. Your Petitioner further requests that the Promoter be required to pay for whatever alterations or measures are deemed to be required to local roads in the Association’s area by the Highway Authority - London Borough of Ealing - in order to stop “rat runs” through the Association’s area.
- 13 Your Petitioner respectfully submits that the Promoter should provide during construction and operation of the new station and rail line (whether in the Bill or otherwise) an eastern access road to the new station from Scrubs Lane. This would facilitate greater access to the station from the east (Central London), meaning that the traffic demands on Old Oak Common Lane will be shared and lessened, reducing some of the impacts on inhabitants in the Association’s area.
- 14 Local shopping serving the Association’s area is located on Old Oak Common Lane at Savoy Circus. All the essentials (and more) are represented: a Post Office, pharmacy, small supermarket, grocers, butcher, baker, newsagent. A school and

at least two places of worship are also located there. The facilities are modest but provide a very important local service, particularly to residents without private means of transport (of whom there are many). The next closest shopping facilities are at Acton Town, Shepherd's Bush, and Ealing Broadway, all of them a good distance away. The shopping facilities and street scene needs to be preserved and improved. As a result of the construction and operation of the new station and rail line the volume of traffic passing through Savoy Circus is likely to grow significantly, meaning more noise and air pollution. Your Petitioner respectfully requests that the Promoter be required to pay for such mitigation measures as the local authority – London Borough of Ealing – deems necessary to offset these impacts, and in order to preserve and improve the shopping facilities and their attractiveness to local shoppers.

- 15 Your Petitioner believes that the Bill fails to realise an important opportunity created by the proximity of the London Overground rail line to the new station at Old Oak Common. London Overground is the suburban network of rail services providing better connections between areas outside central London. Your petitioner respectfully requests that the Promoter be required to provide an undertaking to develop and include the necessary advanced works to enable the provision of a London Overground station at Old Oak Common in the future. Omitting such a connection will undermine the effectiveness of Old Oak Common as a transport hub and deny residents of the Association's area the facility of a local connection to the London Overground network.
- 16 Your Petitioner is concerned that the proposed works will leave a negative legacy on the landscape and communities in the Association's area. Whilst the Environmental Statement contains mitigation for identified adverse impacts, Your Petitioner considers that the aggregation of other impacts not individually considered significant will collectively add up to an adverse impact in the Association's area, on the local environment, and on local communities. Your Petitioner requests that the Promoter should be required to establish a community fund, the form of which should be discussed and agreed with local authorities, and which should be made available for the use of Your Petitioner, other local residents' associations, local charities and other organisations as a means to offset the disruption, environmental and other damage that will be caused to inhabitants in the Association's area. The fund should enable Your Petitioner and others to provide for community benefits in the way of replacement or new facilities, area improvements, or other mitigation. There is relevant and recent precedent for the establishment of such funds in respect of other major infrastructure projects, for example on HS1 and the Hinckley Point nuclear power station.
- 17 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.
- 18 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 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 Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Signed:

On behalf of East Acton Golf Links Residents' Association

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PETITION OF EAST ACTON GOLF LINKS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

AGAINST, By Counsel, &c.

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