

IN PARLIAMENT
HOUSE OF
COMMONS
SESSION
2013 - 2014

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON TO 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 **NICK POWELL**

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 **NICK POWELL** of 18 Albert Terrace Mews, London NW1 7TA

Your Petitioner is a resident householder in Albert Terrace Mews. The Promoter’s plans severely threaten the health, wealth, amenity, pleasure and life of your Petitioner.

Your Petitioner fears that the Promoter’s plans will cause traffic chaos and gridlock over a period of ten years. He asks your honourable House to ensure that the Promoter’s plans do not cause traffic chaos and gridlock in Camden over this period.

Your Petitioner asks you to realign the Promoter's tunnels between Parkway and Chalk Farm Bridge so that they run to a vent shaft on existing railway land not to one at the side of Adelaide Road.

Your Petitioner strongly endorses all the points made in the petition of the Gloucester Avenue Association and prays your honourable House to hear that petition favourable.

Traffic

Your Petitioner fears that HS2's construction plans in Camden will lead to prolonged traffic chaos and to gridlock. The Promoter is seeking powers to make traffic orders, despite being neither a long-established nor an experienced highway authority. HS2 has no understanding of the reasons behind the current pattern of traffic flow in Camden; including the environmental reasons behind many local regulations. The successful management of traffic in Camden can only be assured by a considered and complementary system. The closures and diversions proposed by the Promoter, taken together with the very large number of additional lorry journeys, are an almost certain recipe for chaos.

Your Petitioner's specific fears are as follows:

- 1 Your Petitioner is deeply concerned that the powers contained in Clause 3 and Schedule 4 of the Bill concerning highways may seriously affect the ability of the highway authorities to manage their own network.
- 2 Your Petitioner is dismayed that the Environmental Statement contains no traffic management plan to demonstrate how traffic can be managed during construction without destroying the life of the community in Gloucester Avenue, in Primrose Hill Village and in Camden in general.
- 3 Your Petitioner is astonished at the Promoter's failure to give adequate attention to the need to prevent construction causing traffic chaos in Camden. He draws your honourable House's attention to the Promoter's lack of experience in traffic management and to the assumption in the Bill that

the needs of construction should be allowed to override all other traffic priorities in Camden.

- 4 Your Petitioner draws to your attention the huge personal, social, business, economic, health, educational, cultural and other costs of prolonged traffic chaos and gridlock in Camden.
- 5 Your Petitioner fears that construction traffic and road closures in Camden will have a significant detrimental impact on Gloucester Avenue and Primrose Hill Village.
- 6 Your Petitioner fears that construction traffic and road closures will lead to congestion at the junction of Gloucester Avenue with Oval Road; and at the junction of Gloucester Avenue with Delancey Street and Parkway. The closure of Park Village East will aggravate these problems, with Albert Street and Arlington Road being turned into rat runs. Other major local roads, including Albany Street, Chalk Farm Road, Oval Road, Primrose Hill Road, Prince Albert Road and Regent's Park Road, will see an increase in construction traffic. Use of the Slips car park in Regent's Park for construction vehicles will intensify traffic pressure at Gloucester Gate.
- 7 Your Petitioner fears that the building of the vent shaft on Adelaide Road, with the closure of Adelaide Road and an increase in construction traffic, threatens major disruption not only to Adelaide Road itself but to England's Lane, Haverstock Hill and Primrose Hill Road.
- 8 Your Petitioner fears that construction traffic will cause congestion on Haverstock Hill, the principal road leading north from Gloucester Avenue and Primrose Hill Village.
- 9 Your Petitioner fears that, while the immediate impact on Gloucester Avenue and Primrose Hill Village will be severe, the threat posed to it by HS2's plans cannot be limited to their immediate area. HS2's plans for Camden as a whole threaten to cause traffic chaos throughout the borough of

Camden and beyond. Gloucester Avenue, the area around it and Camden as a whole will all suffer.

- 10 Your Petitioner is concerned about the transportation of hazardous material near Gloucester Avenue and Primrose Hill Village, and in Camden as a whole.
- 11 Your Petitioner opposes, as a general principle, the use of cycle routes for construction traffic. Gloucester Avenue is a marked and much-used cycle route.
- 12 Your Petitioner is concerned about the risk to the vulnerable (cyclists and pedestrians) at junctions affected by construction works or where there are significant increases in traffic.
- 13 Your Petitioner fears that many bus routes, including the C2, 31, 168 and 274, on which residents in Gloucester Avenue and Primrose Hill Village, especially the elderly, are heavily dependent, will be diverted and delayed; that commutes and school runs will become much more difficult and time-consuming; that the emergency services will struggle to get through; and that traffic chaos, including gridlock, will cause significant loss of time and profitability to many thousands of people. He also fears that HS2's plans will bring huge inconvenience and massive economic loss not only to Camden but to surrounding boroughs, including Islington and Westminster.

To address these fears, your Petitioner prays your honourable House to ensure the following:

- 14 Your Petitioner requests you to look very closely at the Promoter's plans under Clause 3 and Schedule 4 of the Bill to make traffic orders. He asks you to examine the experience, and therefore competence, of the Promoter in traffic management. He asks you to place clear limits on the general powers of the Promoter to make traffic orders.

- 15 Your Petitioner requests you to ensure that the Promoter provides a full traffic management plan for the period of construction. This needs to show that the legitimate entitlement of your Petitioner, in Gloucester Avenue, Primrose Hill Village and Camden as a whole, to a functioning traffic management system can be reconciled with the wholesale interference with the current system set out in the Bill.
- 16 Your Petitioner requests your honourable House to give the question of traffic management in Camden during construction your closest attention. He asks you to ensure that a full traffic management plan, which protects the rights of your Petitioner and of Camden as a whole, as well as the allowing the Promoter to carry out construction, is in place before the beginning of any construction.
- 17 Your Petitioner requests you to limit the scale of development at Euston and the area around it, reducing the construction traffic associated with it. A double-deck station provides the obvious benefit of maintaining or even reducing the footprint of Euston Station rather than enlarging it.
- 18 Your Petitioner requests that you remove spoil from demolition and bring in construction materials by rail rather than by road. A platform at Euston dedicated to spoil removal would mean many fewer lorries on the streets of Camden. He also asks you to examine the possible removal of spoil and import of construction materials by canal.
- 19 Your Petitioner requests that you examine closely any scheme which does not require surface rail construction through Camden and also proposes to remove spoil by rail.
- 20 Your Petitioner asks you to provide a full assessment of the Promoter's plans to transport hazardous waste through Camden prior to any work starting.
- 21 Your Petitioner requests that you prohibit construction traffic from using Gloucester Avenue, a marked cycle route. He also requests that you prohibit construction traffic from using marked cycle routes anywhere in Camden. If

the Promoter wishes to use any marked cycle route, it must provide an alternative, temporary cycle route.

- 22 Your Petitioner requests that you instruct the Promoter to put in place measures to assure the safety of cyclists and pedestrians at junctions affected by construction works or where there are significant increases in traffic.
- 23 Your Petitioner requests that you use the now redundant HS1/HS2 Link main compound, or the land intended for the HS1/HS2 Link portal, for the vent shaft currently planned for Adelaide Road, removing the need to close Adelaide Road during the construction of the vent shaft.

Compensation

Your Petitioner believes that compensation proposals for the damage caused by construction are inadequate and unjust:

- 1 Your Petitioner believes that Gloucester Avenue and Primrose Hill Village have already been damaged by blight caused by HS2. The threat of tunnelling under or near to their houses has caused uncertainty amongst potential buyers.
- 2 Your Petitioners believes that the many compulsory purchase orders issued in Primrose Hill Village, for works whose nature is unspecified, have blighted property in Berkley Road, Chalcot Road, Chalcot Square, Gloucester Avenue, Princess Road and Regent's Park Road.
- 3 Your Petitioner believes that, although construction threatens to inflict huge damage on Camden, there is no recognition in the Bill of the principle that polluters must pay for the pollution they cause.
- 4 Your Petitioner fears that the Bill expects Camden and its residents to shoulder the heavy cost of the damage, offering compensation to no more than a handful of those affected. Your Petitioner draws your attention, in particular, to the disastrous effect the Bill will have on small businesses.

5 Your Petitioner believes that it is unjust that no compensation is available to holders of property above or near HS2's tunnels.

6 Your Petitioner fears that HS2's plans will cause traffic chaos and NO2 pollution in Gloucester Avenue, Primrose Hill Village and Camden as a whole, making them less attractive places in which to live. It is unjust that there should be no compensation for the loss of amenity, threat to health and property blight resulting from HS2's plans.

Your Petitioner prays your honourable House to ensure measures providing fair compensation:

7 Your Petitioner requests that there should be full compensation for all losses caused by the construction of HS2 in Camden, whether direct or indirect. This should include compensation for loss of housing, decline in housing values and business losses.

8 Your Petitioner requests that you should widen the compensation zone in Camden to match that outside London.

9 Your Petitioner requests compensation for loss of property values in areas above or near to HS2's tunnels. This compensation should be extended to leaseholders as well as freeholders. Your Petitioner draws to your attention in particular the case of the residents and leaseholders of Darwin Court.

10 Your Petitioner request the acceptance of proposals for a property bond scheme made by the HS2 Action Alliance.

11 Your Petitioner requests that you give favourable attention to the petition on compensation in Camden presented by Sir Keir Starmer QC.

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 such of the clauses and provisions of the Bill as affect 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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SIGNED