

IN PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF COMMONS

SESSION 2013–14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON - WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

PETITION

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 THE GOVERNORS OF TWYFORD C OF E SCHOOL IN TWYFORD IN THE COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

SHEWETH as follows:-

1. A Bill (hereinafter referred to as “the Bill”) has been introduced and is now pending in your honourable House entitled “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 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 Petitioners are the Governors of Twyford C of E Primary School of Twyford in the district of Aylesbury Vale in Buckinghamshire.

7.1 Your Petitioners represent the approximately 15 staff and 83 children of said school. Pupils ages range from 3 to 9 at present but will extend to age 11 later this year. The majority of the children reside in the Village of Twyford or the nearby Village of Calvert Green which is some 5 kilometres away and is served by a school bus service using a route which will also be used by construction traffic.

7.2 The school has been at its present location on Church Street in this rural village since the 1960's. Access is down a cul de sac which has no passing traffic, hence very low ambient noise levels. The school will also be using the Twyford Village Recreation ground, 400 metres from the school on a regular basis for sport and other activities. The recreation ground will be adjacent to the proposed HS2 railway line and within 300 metres of it.

8. Your Petitioners and their rights and interests are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioners object for reasons amongst others, herein appearing.

9. Your Petitioners are petitioning against the Government's bill to design, build and operate a high speed railway line for two reasons:

*Increase in the level of sound

*Disruption caused by construction

First Petition - Increase in level of sound

The proposed HS2 railway line will be situated approximately 1000 metres from the school. According to the published results of the baseline sound survey carried out in September 2012 and using the data from Appendix SV-004-013, at noise receptor ID 288518 (the closest receptor to the school) daytime noise level from the railway will increase by 3dB. This shows readings of approximately 50dB for the daytime. It is further recorded that this will have an adverse effect on the receptor.

The Recreation ground, at its closest point is only some 300m metres from the proposed HS2 railway line. No data was collected at any location on the Recreation ground during the sound survey, but presumably the noise levels will be extremely high, 55dB + due to proximity. This may mean the Recreation ground noise levels are dangerous to children and render it unusable.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) regards 50dB day time noise level as the level that should not be exceeded to protect the majority of people from being moderately annoyed during the daytime. It also says that to protect the majority of people from being seriously annoyed, the day time level should not exceed 55dB.

The WHO says that most countries in Europe have adopted 40dB as the maximum allowable for new developments whenever feasible.

The increase in noise will have detrimental effect on the health and wellbeing of both pupils and staff.

Second Petition - Disruption caused by construction

The school's viability relies on children from Calvert Green which make up over 50% of the pupil numbers. The major disruption that will be caused to the road network by construction and construction traffic is of major concern. If existing roads are closed and lengthy diversions implemented, parents at Calvert Green may consider sending their children to other schools which are unaffected by the works. This could potentially affect the long term sustainability of the school and mean possible closure which would be devastating for staff, parents and the village as a whole. Staff who travel by car will similarly be affected.

10. Your Petitioners respectfully suggests that the following measures taken as a package would improve the situation of the school and recreation ground.

10.1 Move the line further away from the village of Twyford.

10.2 Reduce the speed of the trains as they pass the village. Speed reduction will not only significantly reduce the noise but also allow greater route flexibility to avoid village blight.

10.3 Increase the height of the bund to above the pantograph level as this will inevitably reduce the overall noise levels.

10.4 Your Petitioners note that the height of the bund is not stated in the Environment Statement but it is assumed to be the same level as the sound wall at 5 metres above track level. This is evidenced by the photomontage taken from the land adjacent to St Mary's House.

10.5 OR Preferably, lower the track level. If the track level is lowered, and assuming that the bund is maintained at its proposed height, it will reach nearer to the pantograph level and hence be more effective at reducing noise.

10.6 Plant trees along the old Great Central Railway footprint in the first year of construction such trees to be of native species such as black poplar, oak, birch etc. to provide an additional sound barrier that will have time to grow before the operational phase is attained. Your Petitioners would welcome such a step as early planting could have a benefit in respect of the reduction of dust and air pollution during the construction phase

10.7 If further mitigation measures are not forthcoming, then your Petitioners would expect that an undertaking be given that the actual noise emissions do not exceed that which HS2 Ltd predict in SV-001.000.

10.8 If none of the above measures are possible and the village Recreation ground becomes unusable due to high noise levels, your Petitioners therefore request that the Promoter, at its expense, undertakes to provide a suitable replacement Recreation ground of equal size and condition, including changing pavilion, within the village of Twyford, where noise levels are safe.

10.9 On the question of traffic disruption, your Petitioners are concerned that access to the Twyford School from Calvert Green is maintained at all times. Failure to so do would render Twyford School at risk of closure due to reducing rolls with the concomitant outcome that the village of Twyford would become a significantly less attractive place for families to settle.

10.10 Your Petitioners are similarly concerned that disruption of access to Twyford may cause difficulties for the emergency services to attend incidents and emergencies at Twyford School within their allowed response times. Your Petitioners therefore request that the Promoter, at its expense, undertakes to make available alternative services.

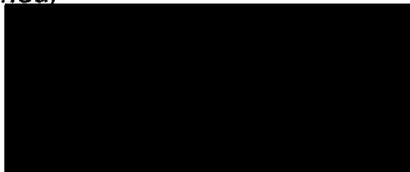
11. For the foregoing and connected reasons your Petitioners respectfully submit that, unless the Bill is amended as proposed above, so far affecting your petitioners should not be allowed to pass into law.

12. 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.

OUR 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 Petitioners in the premises as your Honourable House shall deem meet.

AND your Petitioner will ever pray, &c.

Signed,



IN PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF COMMONS SESSION
2013-14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON - WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

PETITION OF THE GOVERNORS OF TWYFORD SCHOOL IN TWYFORD IN THE COUNTY OF
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Against the Bill - On Merits - By Counsel &c

Mr Steven Elcock

Home telephone: 5

Email: