

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 Mr Anthony Cooper

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 Your Petitioners are freehold owners of 48 Merle Avenue, Harefield, which they have occupied and greatly improved since they bought the property in 2009

- 5 Your Petitioners and their rights, interests and property are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioners object for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
- 6 Your Petitioners bought the property at 48 Merle Avenue, which was in a poor state of repair, and agreed to invest substantial sums of money to renovate and upgrade the property to a liveable standard purely and solely due to its uninterrupted views of the lakes in the Colne Valley in the sound knowledge that as the land between the petitioners property and the lakes was protected by Green belt the views would remain. The impact of the proposed Viaduct across these lakes will be detrimental to your Petitioners for a number of reasons including, visually by ruining the views, due to noise as a minimum of 28 Train journeys every hour will be unbearable, and financially as the sole benefit of owning the property namely the fantastic view will be lost. Your Petitioners believe that the Valley is a unique area of countryside within the M25 and the loss of its tranquillity would adversely affect their quality of life.
- 7 Your Petitioners request a tunnel under the Colne Valley to replace the planned Viaduct. This would alleviate some of the problems stated above, and our beautiful greenbelt and Countryside would not be so blighted
- 8 Harefield Village has one designated Police officer and one Police Community Support Officer. These officers are based at Ruislip, approximately four miles away. The PCSO's current form of transport to Harefield is on public transport. Your petitioners are concerned the very long delays caused by construction traffic on roads leading to Harefield from Ruislip and a rise in crime will result in totally inadequate policing in the area, placing residents, their property and construction workers at an unacceptable risk.
- 9 Your Petitioners object to the HS2 project as the Promoters have not demonstrated a viable business or environmental case.
- 10 Your petitioners are concerned at the promoters decision to dump the spoil of both proposed tunnels in the Colne Valley and request that the promoters re consider and give more thought to their decision as to where to dump this spoil. The spoil could be transported by rail and placed in an area where it would have less adverse effect. This would also alleviate the heightened traffic, noise and dust pollution. A continuation of the tunnel under the colne valley would avoid this issue.
- 11 Your petitioners are concerned about the adverse impact construction traffic will have on the accessibility to everyday and essential services. Your petitioner uses Harvil Road to commute by car, for work .Construction traffic will result in considerable delays and cost affecting your petitioner's daily commute to work which is time critical and access to essential services.

- 12 Your petitioners are concerned about the adverse impact construction traffic will have on essential services in Particular the emergency services provided by Harefield Hospital, a world famous Hospital specialising in cutting edge coronary care. Your petitioner are concerned that the Construction traffic will result in considerable delays and could cost lives.
- 13 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.
- 14 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.

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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.

Mr Anthony Cooper

22/5/2014

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BILL

PETITION OF MR ANTHONY COOPER

AGAINST, By Counsel, &c.

MR ANTHONY COOPER