

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 John Kenneth Hughes and Jessica Ruth Hughes 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 Petitioners John Kenneth Hughes and Jessica Ruth Hughes are the freehold owners and joint occupiers of 33B Lower Road, Higher Denham, UB9 5EB. Your Petitioners, who have both been registered carers, are recently retired, and have worked hard all of their lives to earn the privilege of living in this idyllic, unique and delicate natural haven less than 20 miles from central London. Your Petitioners' property overlooks the Green Belt and is close to the River Misbourne, a globally rare chalk stream which your Petitioners believe could be endangered by the Promoter's project. Your Petitioners' full time hobbies and interests are all spent outside. They include gardening, walking, bird watching and, as members of the Berks Bucks and Oxon Wildlife trust, wildlife in general. Your Petitioners are avid users of the local footpath and rights of way network within the Colne Valley around Denham, Harefield and the Chilterns. Your Petitioners also walk with the Hillingdon Healthy Walkers, a health initiative set up by Hillingdon Council 11 years ago, to promote exercise and well-being. They include regular walks in Denham Country Park and Harefield, led by trained volunteers and are very well attended. The proposed viaduct will run directly over the canal and towpath adjacent to the country park walk and across the lakes in Harefield.

With the already busy roads in our area your Petitioners frequently use the reliable existing local network of public transport to access the various areas and to shop in the local town of Uxbridge.

Your Petitioners will be, personally and directly affected by the Promoter's project in the following ways:

The proposed HS2 viaduct which will run through the Colne Valley

will make it impossible to forever walk the many footpaths and canal paths in Denham and Harefield that we use due to the noise and visual impact of the trains and their frequency.

Your Petitioners request that a tunnel be constructed under the Colne Valley, to replace the planned viaduct, in order to make the loss of footpaths temporary as opposed to permanent if the viaduct goes ahead. Also this will help to protect this valuable area of Green Belt from destruction, reduce the risk of localised flooding and would save considerable mitigation costs.

Your Petitioners are anxious and distressed by the likely effects of the Promoter's project on the local environment, whose beauty and tranquillity we have enjoyed for over 21 years.

Your Petitioners request that additional Medical Clinics are set up to monitor our physical health, that will be directly affected by the excessive noise and dust that HS2 construction will create in our area, together with stress and anxiety clinics with specialist counsellors to help people come to terms with loss of amenity from the peaceful and quiet spaces we regularly use in our surrounding green belt.

8 Your petitioner's rights, interests and property are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your petitioner objects for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.

9 Your Petitioners' property is in close proximity to the A412 North Orbital road, which is proposed to be used under the bill as a route for construction vehicles from the proposed major construction compound adjacent to Old Shire Lane and satellite compounds in Denham and Harefield. Works traffic from the leading international company, Martin Baker Aircraft, sited at the dead end of Lower Road, Higher Denham, already backs up Old Rectory Lane trying to get on to the A412, necessitating traffic lights at peak periods. This factory, despite running shifts, six days a week, generates heavy traffic and in addition to staff vehicles includes HGV's, numerous courier deliveries and site maintenance work vehicles.

Your Petitioners use the 581 bus service which will be subject to severe delays, caused by the congestion on the A412, also affecting Old Rectory Lane and Tilehouse Lane in Denham and other adjoining roads in Harefield. Your Petitioners also use the 331 bus service, which will be caught in the congestion twice: at Denham and Harefield. The 724 bus the main link to Heathrow Airport which runs in both directions along the A412 past the proposed construction compound, along with the other buses, can already be adversely affected due to

frequent traffic incidents on the M25, causing multiple vehicles to leave the motorway and revert back to using the North Orbital road (A412).

Your Petitioners therefore repeat their requests that a tunnel be constructed under the Colne Valley, to replace the planned viaduct, in order to protect this valuable area of Green Belt. This will in part compensate for the months of upheaval and daily disruption we will be forced to endure without enjoying any benefit of the proposed new railway.

Secondly, your Petitioners request that the Promoters pay for the Martin Baker Aircraft Company to build a link road to the A413, which would make Old Rectory Lane safer and assist in easing the additional congestion traffic and noise expected from HS2 works.

Thirdly your Petitioners request that the promoter's traffic should be prevented from using Old Rectory Lane.

Finally, your Petitioners request that the Promoter provides shuttle buses to local hospitals and Uxbridge town centre, which are given automatic right of way to compensate for our local transport network being disrupted and unable to run to schedule.

The water table is so high in Higher Denham that after heavy rain your Petitioners' rear garden is frequently under water. We are concerned that floodwater could ingress into the house, if the promoter's project is allowed to go ahead in its present form.

We always drink tap water; therefore, your Petitioners are also concerned about the possible contamination of local drinking water.

Your Petitioners request that the promoter makes available a weekly drinking water report showing that environmental agency standards are being met and where safe drinking water will be supplied from.

Your Petitioners repeat the point that a tunnel under the Colne Valley would greatly reduce the risk of localised flooding.

- 10 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 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.

Signature of Petitioner