

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 Mrs Sheila P Griffith and Mr Selwyn Griffith

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 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 reside at 42 Oaklands Close, Hill Ridware, Rugeley, Staffordshire WS15 3RJ. Your Petitioners moved to this small village approximately 12 months ago in order to spend their retirement in the peace and tranquillity of this delightful location. However after spending a great deal of time and money updating their property they feel that they will be virtually prisoners within Oaklands Close due to the heavy volume of traffic that will be using the main road approximately 200 yards away. In addition to which there will no longer be any peace and tranquillity for a long period of time due to the noise, vibration and dust which will be experienced whilst construction is taking place.
8. 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.
9. The Bill includes powers for the Secretary of State and the nominated Undertaker to do construction work which are estimated to take 10 years to complete and will include lorry movement, the creation of dust and noise, poor air quality, and 24 hour working. This will inevitably lead to:

9.1 Affecting your Petitioners access to the main road for onward travel to visit their doctor as they are unfortunately in the age group which is requiring frequently more such visits.

9.2 Your Petitioners are very concerned that once construction work commences the emergency services response time would be greatly increased, just adding to the already depleted National Health Service situation.

9.3 The road closures between Hill Ridware, Handsacre, Seedy Mill and Lichfield will make visiting friends and family very difficult as there is no obvious convenient route.

9.4 Your Petitioners are also concerned that as soon as construction work commences food shopping will become a problem due to the restricted access to the main road in order to visit local supermarkets and having grocery deliveries would be even more difficult due to the road access and the size of the supermarket delivery vehicles.

10. Your Petitioners object to the powers that are proposed to be provided by the Bill to the Secretary of State and the nominated Undertaker and respectfully request that:

10.1 Consideration is given to the amendment of the scheme as the Petitioners are yet are not aware of anyone who is going to benefit from HS2 charging through the countryside.

10.2 Request that the horrendous sum of money being spent on HS2 should be used to improve the quality of the National Health Service.

10.3 Request that should this scheme go ahead consideration should be given to amending the route for the heavy lorry traffic to go towards Rugeley on the B5014.

10.4 Request that all the affected residents should be provided with triple glazing in order to block out the noise.

11. For the foregoing and connected reasons your Petitioners respectfully submit that, unless the Bill is amended as proposed as 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.

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

AND your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Signed: Mrs Sheila P Griffith

Mr Selwyn Griffith