

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 TIMOTHY CHARLES GIBSON 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, Mr Robert Goodwill.
- 3 Objection is taken to the works to be undertaken within the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and in particular to **works 2.13 to 2.27** (listed in Schedule 1 of the bill) in the parishes of Little Missenden, Great Missenden, Chartridge and The Lee, and to the clauses of the bill which would authorise these works.
- 4 Your Petitioner resides within the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (hereinafter referred to as “the AONB”) and is the freeholder of The

Old Vicarage, Little Missenden. Your Petitioner was born in 1944 in the property which lies at the centre of the village near the church.

- 5 Your Petitioner and their rights, property and interests are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioner objects for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.

Objection in principle

- 6 Although your petitioner is aware that the Select Committee of your honourable House is unable to consider cases which object to the principle of the Bill, your petitioner doubts that the current route for the railway through the Chilterns AONB would have been chosen had a strategic Environmental Assessment been carried out. No comparison of the route through the AONB with alternatives has been attempted in the Environmental Statement, as required by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000.

Your petitioner along with a considerable body of informed opinion doubts the economic justification for the proposed HS2 railway. The extremely low cost benefit return and the views of many experts that the business case has not been made demonstrate the project will be ruinously expensive and fail in meeting its objectives.

Local Impact and Mitigation

- 7 Your petitioner lives towards the western end of the village approximately 1.2 km from the portal of the proposed tunnel. Consequently the dislocation, noise and construction-related traffic will have a major impact on his house and the whole neighbourhood for a number of years. When completed the proposed railway with its noise and light pollution will be intrusive and will destroy the existing rural tranquillity of the village and its immediate vicinity.
- 8 The currently proposed route for HS2 involves tunnelling under Shardeloes Lake and through the system of aquifers of the river Misbourne which is very likely to cause the loss of this unique chalk stream. The Chiltern District Council (CDC) recommends an amended route which would extend the tunnelling thereby causing a less damaging impact on the Chilterns AONB and re-routing the tunnel away from the local system of aquifers. For this, amongst many other reasons your petitioner supports the CDC's proposal.

- 9 Your petitioner requests that in the event that the CDC's alternative route proposal is not adopted the existing proposal for the tunnel to terminate at Mantle's Wood should be altered to permit the tunnelling to be extended further. This alternative as described in the CRAG-T2 mitigation proposal would position the tunnel portal to the north of Wendover, clear of the AONB.
- 10 Your petitioner believes that in the event of the current proposals for HS2 proceeding construction works and the related traffic would cause major congestion problems on the A413 above Little Missenden. Inevitably the road running through Little Missenden would be used as a 'rat-run'. To counter this, your petitioner supports the proposal that there should be a permanent roundabout to the east of the village and the access to the village at Suffolk Bridge should be temporarily closed along with the Taylor's Lane access onto the A413 whilst construction is being carried-out.
- 11 For the foregoing and connected reasons your Petitioners respectfully submit that, unless the Bill is amended as proposed above (to remove the works noted in paragraph 3 from the schedule) 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, property and interests 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 in person, or Agent for the Petitioner]

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[Redacted]

AGAINST, By Counsel, &c.