

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 CHALFONT ST GILES PARISH COUNCIL

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 is the Parish Council of Chalfont St Giles, and so is the elected body responsible local planning, open spaces and other issues affecting the residents of the Parish.
- 5 Your Petitioner and their rights and interests are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioner objects for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.

Specific Objections – Damage to Misbourne Aquifer

- 6 Your petitioner is seriously concerned about the risk that the proposed construction works will seriously damage the River Misbourne and its aquifer. The Misbourne is a chalk stream that is typical of the AONB and is vulnerable to disruption to the aquifer that feeds and supports it. Depending upon how construction works impact the aquifer, your petitioner believes that there is a risk that the Misbourne may either dry up, or else flood. In this past year the heavy rain resulted in local flooding of the village centre, and damaged the local telephone exchange – damage that lasted for up to nine weeks.
- 7 HS2 has given no assurance that the engineering works will not seriously affect the Misbourne and/or its aquifer. They have only stated that ‘if there is a problem, we will deal with it’. Your petitioner believes this position is entirely inadequate, and much greater consideration must be given to this important issue. It is not acceptable that engineering works should be undertaken blindly – your petitioner strongly requests that no construction work is started without completion beforehand of a thorough geological survey.

Specific Objections – Traffic Congestion

- 9 Your petitioner is seriously concerned about traffic disruption in the Chalfont St Giles area during the construction period stretching over several years. In particular, your petitioner is concerned about the effects of construction traffic during building and maintenance of the vent shaft, and during the removal of up to 2 million cubic metres of spoil.
- 10 Your petitioner is seriously concerned that retail businesses in Chalfont St Giles will suffer from loss of business as a result of traffic congestion and lack of access and parking.
- 11 Your petitioner request that the nominated undertaker be required to mitigate these nuisances these nuisances, by amending the Code of Construction Practice and funding its enforcement by the Local Authority, to strictly apply the following measures:-
 - (a) Restricting HGV movements to the period 09:30 – 15:30 throughout the AONB, and prohibiting HGV Movements along school routes for

30 minutes before and after the start and end of the school day (during term time).

- (b) Operating a 'Park and Ride' scheme to transport construction workers along the trace, and enforcing this by not providing parking for contractors at the construction compounds.
- (c) Constructing such facilities as may be necessary to remove excess spoil from the AONB by rail

12 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.

13 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,



IN PARLIAMENT
HOUSE OF COMMONS

SESSION 2013-14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON – WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

PETITION OF CHALFONT ST GILES PARISH COUNCIL

AGAINST, By Counsel, &c.

c/o Mr Warren (Chairman)

[Redacted signature block]

T