

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 **KIRK JONES**

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 property is located near the proposed route of HS2 at The Stone, Pheasant Hill, Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire, HP8 4SA and for reasons given below he is very concerned that the change in route from the original proposed by HS2 (which sensibly avoided the historic village in this area of outstanding natural beauty by passing to the North of the A413) will now cause maximum harm and damage through pollution, noise, chaotic traffic proposals during construction and beyond to the peaceful historic village and community.
- 8 Your Petitioner ~~and his~~ rights, interests and property are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioners object for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
- 9 I petition to request the committee ask HS2 Ltd to revert to the original route of HS2 that passed clear of the village of Chalfont St Giles (north of the Amersham Road A413) before it was suddenly and inexplicably redirected to run in a tunnel directly under the village center where construction and related vibration/ traffic/ road closures/ air pollution/ dust/ drilling/ traffic chaos on Pheasant Hill will completely paralyze our village and cause maximum pollution and disruption. By targeting our village in the revision of the direction of the line it will further put at risk the historical medieval church, the Village pond, listed buildings, pubs, shops, car park, library and chalk stream river.

Pheasant Hill is only 100m long but during rush hour is very busy and congested as it feeds traffic to the village from the A413 yet it has been highlighted as a road to be directly affected by construction and project related traffic. I assume the original line that avoided the village was calculated to be the most direct and effective route and it sensibly avoided our village. Without notice or explanation the line was diverted to tunnel directly under our community.

My property (The Stone) adjoins Pheasant Hill and construction and traffic will not only delay access to the local doctors/ school/ shops etc. but it will introduce traffic into the village that was avoided in the original route. In recent weeks we have

experienced basic road works operating on traffic lights near three households in our village and the traffic has come to a standstill affecting business and trade and adding approx. 10 minutes to the time it takes to pass through Chalfont St Giles. By diverting HS2 directly under our village we will face months or years of unnecessary disruption, chaos and property blight with absolutely no compensation based on current guidelines set out by HS2 Ltd.

The priority should be to avoid disruption in all villages and communities whenever possible as per the original proposed line, not to target villages and cause the maximum destruction as per the revised direction of the line?

In addition the revised route means that HS2 now tunnels under the natural and sensitive chalk stream (River Misbourne) directly in the heart of Chalfont St Giles. If there are complications with this tunneling of the chalk streams or if the tunnel needs to be reinforced or the natural process of the make up of layers of chalk are damaged then it must surely make sense to tunnel under the river away from the village not in its center?

I would urge the committee to request that HS2 revise the line in this area and avoid the village of Chalfont St Giles all together as was the original plan before it was revised to directly target our village.

- 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.



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AGAINST, By Counsel, &c.

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