

IN PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF COMMONS

SESSION 2013-2014

**HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON – WEST MIDLANDS) BILL**

Against the Bill – Praying to be heard by Counsel & co.

To The Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Parliament assembled.

THE HUMBLE PETITION of ROBERTSWOOD SCHOOL 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 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 Picles, Secretary Own Paterson, Secretary Edward Davey and M. 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 (“Phase I of HS2”) 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 the Bill.

- 7 Your Petitioner is Robertswood School which is a Primary School with Nursery, specifically the Headteacher and Governing Body of the school. It is a Primary school judged by OfSTED to be "Good", located in Denham Lane, Chalfont St. Peter, Bucks SL9 0EW.
- 8 The school has 376 pupils and employs 75 staff (both full time and part time). It operates between 8.50am & 3.30pm each day (with pupils arriving from 8.45am and leaving between 3.30pm and 6.30pm because of after school activities. There is also a Nursery on the same site with 51 young children on roll that is open between 8.30am and 3.30pm (covering a morning session from 8.30am to 11.30 am an afternoon session between 12.30pm and 3.30pm. There is consequently very little time in the working day when children are not arriving at and leaving the site.
- 9 The area in which your Petitioner's school is located will be seriously affected by the provision of the Bill and will receive no benefits from the construction of the proposed railway.

### **Concerns regarding the impact of HS2 and amendments to the Bill sought**

#### **Vent Shaft - Construction Traffic Concerns**

- 10 The proposed tunnel runs through Chalfont Common, the Northernmost part of the village where a vent shaft is proposed to be constructed in Chesham Lane in close proximity to the Petitioner.
- 11 Your Petitioner is in close proximity to the vent shaft.
- 12 Your Petitioner is located on Denham Lane which is proposed to be used under the Bill as a route for construction traffic.
- 13 Due to the geographical position of the school, almost all most of the children need to cross and re-cross Denham Lane to access the school.
- 14 Using these lanes, construction traffic will pass the entrance to the Petitioner school.
- 15 Denham Lane is heavily congested mornings, mid-day and afternoons and the impact of construction traffic will cause gridlock at peak hours as well as safety issues for our young vulnerable children and their parents.
- 16 There is very minimal public transport to and from Denham Lane as a result of which children either walk or are driven to school.
- 17 Your Petitioner is concerned that the increased traffic on this already busy road will result in further delays making it difficult for both staff and pupils to access the school. This will have a detrimental and disruptive effect on the 'taught-day'. Furthermore this will also cause problems for parents dropping off pupils who then need to get to work.
- 18 Your Petitioner is concerned that an increase of HGV's will lead to accidents.
- 19 Your Petitioner is concerned that the use of Denham Lane for construction traffic will lead to dust and exhaust fumes to the detriment of our childrens' health and could lead to the cancellation of outdoor activities.

### **Mitigation Sought**

- 20 Your Petitioner seeks a temporary new road to be constructed at the rear of the vent shaft for all construction traffic to access and exit the site from the A413. This area is already shown on the maps as an area marked in pink which may be required by HS2. This will mitigate the effect of construction traffic on Chesham Lane, Denham Lane and Joiners Lane.

### **Vent Shaft Inappropriate Location**

- 21 Your Petitioner is aware of the Peter Brett report and that there may be a change to European Legislation – EU T51. This may provide the opportunity for this vent shaft to be moved to a more appropriate location which your petitioner requests is considered.
- 22 For the foregoing and connected reasons your Petitioner 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 Petitioner, should not be allowed to pass into law.
- 23 There are other clauses and provisions of the Bill which, if passed into law as they now stand will prejudicially affect your Petitioner and his rights, property and interests and for which no adequate provision is made to protect your Petitioner.

YOUR PETITIONER therefore humbly prays 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 Petitioner 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 PETITIONER will ever pray, &c.

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