

To the House of Lords
Session 2015-16

PETITION against the

High Speed Rail (London - West Midlands) Bill

THE PETITION OF The members of the Regents Park Estate Tenants and Residents Association

Declares that:

1. The petitioners are specially and directly adversely affected by the whole Bill
2. The petitioners are the members of the Regents Park Estate Tenants and Residents Association (TRA). The TRA has existed since the construction of the estate and represents the interests of its 210 members and the wider 6,000 residents who live on the Regents Park Estate. The TRA is being relocated as part of the HS2 replacement homes resulting from the proposals in this Bill. The new location will place the TRA on Robert Street 250m from the main works compound in Hampstead Rd and 40m from the main construction route through the estate. The building is also adjacent to minor construction route and utilities diversion works.
3. Whilst many members of the TRA are young parents with young children others are older or disabled, many having lived on the estate since its construction. The TRA provides typical community facilities of a village hall, crèche facilities, mothers clubs, afternoon and evening activities for the elderly as well as being available for hire for functions by local residents. It organises events and day trips out of the area for both children and older residents.
4. The Bill and its proposers introduce demolition, construction and development resulting in ten years of substantial and unprecedented noise, pollution and reduction in habitability and personal safety to your petitioners. The TRA and its membership's rights and interests are injuriously affected by the Bill to which your petitioners object. Your petitioners' primary request is for reasonable access to the community fund provided for in the Bill to help mitigate these impacts. Other requests and amendments are sought as follows;
6. Request to remove the increase in Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV's) and replace with rail.
Request to provide direct access to Hampstead Rd for the Granby Terrace Bridge Compound.
Request to amend the Code of Construction Practice (COCP) to better deal with road maintenance on residential roads and ensure 'best practice' from Local and National Authorities.

The impact of the construction and utilities works in combination for the ten year period 2017-2027, especially when all the construction site compounds around the Regents Park Estate are

Access to bus stops, the hospital, the station itself and Somers Town will be much more precarious for your petitioners. The extra delays to buses will compound the delays already expected by your petitioners with the Hampstead Rd Bridge works and loss of bus lanes.

The removal of the banned right turn from the Regents Park Estate onto Hampstead Rd needed to allow the construction route will have a serious impact on road safety here and generally on the estate as detailed below.

9. Request to maintain existing road safety measures on the Regents Park Estate and prevent diverted commuter traffic through the estate.

The Bill and its proposers require the removal of essential road safety measures on the Regents Park Estate. Within the Estate boundaries there has been 1 serious injury accident in the five years 2011-2014 and no fatalities. This is quite a good record and perhaps reflects the benefit of the 20mph zone and road humps on the estate. It also demonstrates the very real risks of introducing the large flows of HGV's onto the estate as described earlier together with the utilities works and consequent disruption. In addition the removal of banned turns to accommodate the construction traffic will allow general commuter traffic to enter the estate. Your petitioners are seriously concerned at the increased risk of negotiating all this whilst going about their daily business.

Your petitioners are seriously concerned at the increased risk of negotiating the additional HGV traffic on Albany Street and Hampstead Road. Albany St forms part of the shopping and commercial centre of the estate. The local post office and chemist are on the west side as well as food shops and bus stop. The need to negotiate Hampstead Rd for bus stops etc. has already been mentioned above.

10. Request for funding to local community to mitigate loss of open spaces and increased construction traffic/activities and to help prevent an increase in road casualties, health problems and potential increase in crime.

The replacement housing and extensive utilities works arising from the Bill and provisions allow the proposer to remove 54 mature trees and remove or render hazardous 10,000m² of public open space, ornamental gardens and lawns on the Regents Park Estate, making up almost half such space on the estate. Replacement trees will take at least 10 years to grow back to anything approaching their current form and your petitioners maintain it is unreasonable to view the loss of these trees as temporary particularly the mature willows between Robert St and Varndell St junctions. These are a local landmark and the impact of these losses on the Estate is a severe and tragic outcome.

Residents cannot all squeeze up into an ever reducing space like this without repercussions on mental and physical health and an increase in traffic accidents and crime rates from increased density and loss of young persons' amenities. The AP3 suggests some existing open spaces within the Estate could become new public areas. These are already public spaces with upgraded play areas and benches. The increase in construction lorries on Albany St and the estate generally will increase the barrier this road has (crossing points notwithstanding) to

reduce pollution, within the limits of the works application process however there is no requirement to consult the community under Schedule 16 to the Bill. The Bill removes any mechanism to establish what the local community thinks is an important amenity, e.g. open space. A clarification of the Bill stating that Camden Councils Statement of Community Involvement is part of the application process for Schedule 16 works would allay your petitioners concerns

15. Concluding remark

Your petitioners maintain the costs to the local community of the proposals in the Bill are severe and injurious. It is already becoming increasingly difficult for your petitioners to negotiate the existing HS2 works on the estate, it will soon become impossible. A summary of the mitigations requested, which may alleviate some or all of the preceding impacts and injuries to your petitioners is listed below;

17. Summary of Mitigations Requests and Assurances.

- Funding from Community & Environment fund to mitigate potential increase in crime/ reduction in amenity and personal safety through respite trips for vulnerable residents.
- Reduce the increase in Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV's) and replace with rail.
- Provide direct access onto Hampstead Rd for Granby Terrace Bridge Compound.
- Amend the COCP to ensure 'best practice' from Local and National Authorities.
- COCP noise and pollution measures to cover construction routes.
- Maintain existing road safety measures on and around the Regents Park Estate and monitor diverted traffic and road accident rates during construction.
- Maintain Amptill Estate pedestrian 'right of way'.
- Assurance that parking losses are not more than 20% of existing remaining spaces within Regents Park Estate.
- Reduce the height of Hampstead Rd bridge and approaches.
- Assurance Schedule 16 works are subject to local authority SCI.
- Representation of the TRA on working groups for works proposed by the Bill directly affecting the Regents Park Estate.
- Further surveys on community impacts, noise and pollution.

21. The petitioners therefore ask the House of Lords that someone representing them, in accordance with the rules and Standing Orders of the House, be given an opportunity to give evidence on all or some of the issues raised in this petition to the Select Committee which considers this Bill.

AND the petitioners remain, etc.

Mr Steven Christofi. Agent for The Regents Park Estate Tenants and Residents Association

14th April 2016