

To the House of Lords
Session 2015–16

PETITION against the

High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Bill

THE PETITION OF ST PANCRAS PARISH CHURCH EUSTON PCC

Declares that:

1. The petitioners are specially and directly adversely affected by the whole bill.
2. *Your petitioners are*

Your Petitioners are St Pancras Parish Church Parochial Church Council in the London Borough of Camden, in Euston Road NW1 2BA. The church has existed on this site since 1822, and is the parish church of the Ancient Parish of St Pancras.

The parish stretches up either side of Euston station in the north to Cardington Street, Doric Way and Phoenix Way, down to Torrington and Tavistock Places in the south, Judd and Ossulston Streets in the east and Tottenham Court and Hampstead Roads in the West.

The north of the parish has high indices of deprivation, with moderate deprivation and a high student population further south. This petition expresses concerns from the PCC for our parishioners, and also heritage issues.

St Pancras church is a grade 1 listed neoclassical Georgian building of immense value to the history of London.

In St James Gardens, in the parish, in which there are still at least 35,000 people buried who will need reburial for which there needs to be discussion with the Diocese, and a number of listed monuments.

3. *Your petitioner's concerns are*

- I. Your petitioners concerns were not addressed in the cut and paste generic response document, nor in the House of Commons Select Committee. Neither do the assurances given to Camden Council reassure us as they do not go far enough, merely potentially improving the processes for whatever mitigations your petitioners may receive. Nor are there any clear plans for their implementation, enforcement nor outcome.

- II. Your petitioner's first issue is the continued and increased impact on St James Gardens, where the Vicar of St Pancras Euston Road has responsibility for the cure of souls for the thousands of people buried there according to the rites of the Church of England.
- III. The Lancing Street playground, next to your Petitioner's church hall, is taken as a construction compound by HS2, to the detriment of parishioners, particularly children. The reduction of amenity in loss both temporary and permanent of green spaces and trees is not acceptable.
- IV. There is a six year increase in the duration of construction for the west part of the proposed Euston station and approaches to 2033 which increases the impact of the construction of HS2 on the lives of parishioners. The health impacts will be of long duration and have consequences for life expectancy.
- V. There is no clear overall plan for the development of Euston station and approaches, and the subsequent over site development. There are massive cost increases, and the economic case is not proven.
- VI. There is no coherent account taken of the combined impact over many years of the significant residual effects, meaning that habitability criteria over issues of noise, pollution, vibration and all the issues to do with construction have not been reasonably assessed, nor has compensation been provided and detailed.
- VII. Construction traffic of heavy good vehicles on residential streets will increase by over 20% to remove the additional spoil created by the construction of a larger station basement and the retention of line X.
- VIII. The construction of a higher, wider and longer Hampstead Road Bridge will create severance in the parish as well as increasing night work.
- IX. Convenient and easy access to open space, play and sports facilities is essential to the physical and emotional health and well-being of communities. Access to the natural environment is known to reduce stress and anxiety, and activities arising from these amenities contribute to reducing problems with obesity. Plans by HS2 Ltd will rob our area of much of this vital public amenity. We do not consider the replacement proposals to be adequate in terms of accessibility, quality or quantity.
- X. Mature trees are the vital lungs of our city as detailed in the "Urban Forest" report to the House of Lords on 2nd December 2015. Mature trees fulfill a significant role in reducing air pollution and in addition provide a range of benefits to the health and well-being of our communities. These include their role in temperature modification, reducing the risk of flooding and waterlogged ground, provision of shade and a natural habitat for a range of species.

- XI. Trees are also appreciated for their aesthetic beauty and the screening and softening of a harsh urban cityscape. HS2 Ltd's plans include the wholesale removal of much of these valuable and valued assets which play such an important role in the physical, emotional and positive environmental impacts on our communities. Current replacement plans are wholly inadequate in terms of number, size and maturity.
- XII. The promoter's environmental statement assessments and documents generally are full of mistakes and omissions and have taken no account of our carefully thought through responses.
- XIII. Therefore your Petitioners ask for the following changes and mitigations and if these are not possible, then they ask that Old Oak Common is made the London terminus, at least until there is a coherent plan for the development of Euston Station.
- XIV. Many of the detailed points made in the Camden Cutting Petition concerning noise are supported by your Petitioners, therefore we have not repeated them all in this petition, relying on the thorough work of our neighbours.
- XV. Detailed planning for Euston station and approaches including genuine consideration of the same footprint plans such as Euston Express, High Speed UK and Double Deck Down must be undertaken, and needs to be co-ordinated with a national railway network strategy as well as Crossrail Two and the London Underground. Your petitioners urge you to use Old Oak Common (to the west of Euston) as a temporary terminus at least to give time to develop a clear plan for the development of Euston station and approaches.
- XVI. Spoil should be taken out by rail, not by hundreds of HGV lorries on residential streets. Deliveries should also be by rail, with penalties for transgressions.
- XVII. An architecturally pleasing bridge must be designed for the Hampstead Road replacement, if the case for greater height and size is made.
- XVIII. There must be urgent discussions now for adequate provision of green and open spaces and playgrounds, both during construction, and after completion. These must be agreed in advance and be at least equivalent to the present areas and numbers of mature trees
- XIX. Information reasonably required by your petitioners must be provided in time by HS2 Ltd, the promoter, for our presentations to select committee.

4. The prayer

The petitioners therefore ask the House of Lords that they, or 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.

Name: Dorothea Hackman
Churchwarden

Signature.....

Name: Revd Anne Stevens
Vicar

Signature.....

Name: Gaynor Paul Clark
Churchwarden

Signature.....