

## EGRA Public Meeting Minutes

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at Rothbury Hall, Mauritius Road at 19.30**

Attendees: 25

### 1. Silvertown Tunnel – Victoria Rance

Victoria gave an update on the Stop Silvertown Tunnel campaign. A preferred bidder has been announced. City Hall are now in the process of getting the contracts drawn up.

About four weeks ago Women's Equality Greenwich, Greenwich Momentum, Extinction Rebellion, 15 head teachers and school children formed the Stop Silvertown Tunnel campaign. In one week they collected 250 signatures on a letter (it can be read [here](#)) that was presented at City Hall to Caroline Pidgeon and Caroline Russell accompanied by a group from Extinction Rebellion. It is believed that now is a good time to try again with continued focus on air quality and before any contracts are formally signed.

A response was received from Heidi Alexander (it can be viewed [here](#)). They have written back to accept her invitation for a meeting, but as yet no response.

The group will be attending Mayors question time on 20<sup>th</sup> June. A number of students from Thomas Tallis school will be part of this and at least one assembly member will ask questions about the tunnel. Greenwich Extinction Rebellion & Youth Extinction rebellion will be outside the meeting.

We are requesting people come along to City Hall on 20<sup>th</sup> June. If you want to be a protester you can be there from 9am as assembly members enter. Meeting with children and assembly members is at 9:30. Mayors question time is 10am-1pm, we expect the Silvertown questions to be asked about noon.

Summary of Discussion in the room:

What are stop Silvertown Tunnel asking for? We believe TFL should look at other options one such is rather than the double bore tunnel, could have a single bore with cars on top and cyclists & pedestrians underneath. There will be 153,000 tonnes of carbon just building the tunnel. This is a PFI (pay for infrastructure) project and they will recoup the money over the next 25 years via tolls on both the Blackwall Tunnel & Silvertown tunnel, (tolled the same as Dartford). By the time it is built it will be in the Low Emission Zone. Big lorries are not just about emissions, dust, particulate matter from tyres & breaks are also detrimental to health. Use freight instead, build up the rail infrastructure and smart road pricing (Smeed report suggested this back in the 60s), it is likely to be doing something like that on the Irish border.

Tower Hamlets & Greenwich are the only London boroughs that are for the tunnel. Southwark, Hackney, Lewisham & Newham are against it. The development consent

order is in place, buying land, cutting down trees. What would need to be done to pull it back? Initially this will be about delaying the signing of the contracts.

Discussion of how much traffic would go to Rotherhithe because it's free, it is very hard to quantify what the impact of this will be. Freedom of information request has shown that they didn't consider other options, emails have revealed this and that they covered it up (specifically didn't consider single bore tunnel). Further information on this can be read on the [853 blog](#)

It is believed that the sentiment has changed, it is more of a political decision and, with everything that has happened, we have the opportunity to make mayoral candidates realise this is an election loser.

What are No Silvertown Tunnel asking of members:

- Please join us next Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June at the London Assembly
- Write letter to the council and attend next council meeting

Historically EGRA hasn't taken a position on this issue, request to the room to understand the overall sentiment of members. The show of hands around the room showed 2 in favour, and of the remainder about half split between against and not sure either way. We will send an email round to let everyone know about the petition & ask for expression of for / against Silvertown tunnel.

## 2. Cruise Ships – Greenwich Ship Tier – PLA meeting – Patrick Ives

There is a PLA meeting in Greenwich on 25th June at the Ahoy centre. There will be the opportunity to ask them about continued use of the river for cruise ships without onshore power. No toxic cruise port is still involved and this has also been taken up by New Capital Quay & West Greenwich. We are also hoping that Greenwich Society will become more involved with his.

## 3. Greening – Patrick Ives

Christchurch School Community Garden is the main project at the moment. There is a plan to have an open day mid July before school breaks up. There is now another bee hive, pond, vegetable beds and will be planting an orchard over the winter in conjunction with the children from school.

Woodland Walk trees are looking a little sad. We are struggling to get them enough water and need to address this going forwards. We are looking to get an expert to look at these and see what can be done. Suggestions were to talk to local company Eden and also look at Trust for Conservation volunteers and see if they have any suggestions. We will bring this back to the next meeting.

Pocket Parks work was due to start April / May, there is some work happening on Pelton Rd at the moment, Mell St has not been touched, nor has Hoskins St.

Planning application has been submitted for the works site of Silvertown Tunnel which will be the TFL car park by North Greenwich. Mature trees that have been

there since 1999 will be cut down as part of this. The Garden bridge campaign in central London did a good job of highlighting trees that would be cut down, we would like to mirror this by putting signs on them all. Sheila Keeble agreed to lead on this.

#### 4. Updates on Gas Holder & Enderby House

Update from Mary Mills can be read [here](#)

#### 5. Planning / LEN – Sheila Keeble

Morden Wharf – 40% of site is designated industrial. Sivia will stay there, there will be a new distribution centre.

#### 6. AOB

Midpoint restaurant is now building a bin store on the S106 land at Anchor Iron Wharf, the council are investigating.

Concerns were raised regarding the bins on Crane St by Trafalgar Tavern. It is such a visible place and must be attracting rats. It was agreed that it is an issue and we will raise with the council first. Greenwich society were involved and it had been agreed that they would move them to another location, but this has not happened. Patrick will raise with the council.

Knight Dragon to put in outline and detailed planning application for site next to the new Mary Magdalene school and the one next to that. There will be two high towers one over 30 floors and one just less than 30 floors. This raises concerns about safeguarding as they will look directly over the playground and could take photos of children with ease. Sheila has raised this with Knight Dragon & Margaret Cane.

Land in Pear Tree way, planning application has been submitted under the guise of minor amendments to completely redesign the buildings and shouldn't be able to do this under this. We will continue to object on this and request others to do so too. The application number is: 19/1545/MA GMV Phase 3, 4 & 5 Peartree Way, London, SE10 0HZ, comments can continue to be entered even after the deadline has expired.

The people's assembly on climate emergency are hosting a day of events on 22<sup>nd</sup> June in Stephen Lawrence Building, Greenwich university.

Traffic plans for central Greenwich – monitoring is now in place.