

**Minutes of EGRA public meeting - Wednesday 8 June 2016**  
**Star and Garter, Old Woolwich Road. 7.30 – 9.00 pm**

**Opening comments**

Steve Wreyford (chairing the meeting) welcomes members.

**Air Quality (AQ) issues**

Ian Blore (IB) talked about the possible introduction of a Low Emissions Neighbourhood. There are details about this on the RBG website. The implication is that money would be set aside to address poor air quality in a LEN, however, IB points out that this would be a 'sticking plaster' approach, rather than tackling the underlying problem.

A third round of AQ monitoring has taken place in East Greenwich initiated by EGRA, and the Greenwich Society has also carried out AQ monitoring in West Greenwich. The results from the analysis will be communicated to members in the coming weeks.

**Silvertown Tunnel**

IB reminds members that decision about the Silvertown tunnel is not a local planning decision, but will be decided by the Planning Inspectorate. It is currently at the 'Development Consent Order' stage, and IB encourages members to register on the Silvertown website. Once people have done this, they will be kept informed and will be able to make comments about the Tunnel, either in favour or against. If people do not register they will not be able to make their voices heard!

Anne Richards, who joined the meeting on behalf of the Westcombe Society, handed out postcards which people can send to whomever they want to influence, to say 'No' to the Silvertown Tunnel.

**Cruise Terminal & Judicial Review**

The JR will be heard on 12 & 13 July, and IB encourages members to come along to at least some of this hearing, and maybe watch history being made! This will take place at the Crown Court and could provide interesting viewing.

IB clarified that this is not a case of EGRA or local resident suing RBG, but that the Crown is taking RBG to court on the basis that there have been planning errors in the decision making process when granting planning permission for the CLT to be built. The court can find against RBG, in which case they can go to appeal up to three times. Alternatively, we may lose in which case it can also go to appeal.

A member raised a question about the Power Station. IB referred to the EGRA website, and mentioned that there would have to be an Environmental Impact Assessment before any installations of turbines could go ahead.

**Royal Greenwich Local Plan: Site Allocations**

Kate Joeke (KJ) updated the members on the Site Allocations. EGRA followed up with Claire Loops (Planning Policy Manager) after attending the meeting. RBG is working to identify sites for development and protection, and this will then be fed into the Local Plan. There is documentation on the RBG website, however, Claire

recognises that there is quite a lot to get through. The idea is that members of the local community contribute ideas for development (e.g. commercial, housing, green space). If people are interested:

[http://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/info/1004/planning\\_policy/869/local\\_development\\_framework/7](http://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/info/1004/planning_policy/869/local_development_framework/7)

The next step in this process is that a 'Preferred Approaches Paper' will be produced which will outline the proposals for sites in our area, and we can then comment on those. Autumn 2016.

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

Corinne Lelijveld (CL) talked about the formation of a Neighbourhood Forum, which can then produce a Neighbourhood Plan (NP). This NP, once recognised by the RBG, would have legal standing and would sit alongside the borough's own Local Plan. CL highlighted that we need to think carefully about how we define what 'East Greenwich' is, as the Council can refuse the plan on the basis of not recognising that the area is a 'neighbourhood'. CL proposes to do work on finding out from people locally 'where do you think you live'.

A couple of suggestions from members: define the area by using the Council's own 'East Greenwich' parking zone. Another suggestion: look at using particular SE10 postcodes.

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) paid for all people in Deptford's original NP to receive a letter asking whether they wanted to be part of the 'Neighbourhood'. This is the kind of support that could be provided to our NP as well.

The NP can include protection of particular buildings (e.g. if there had been a NP we could have protected the East Greenwich Library building). Also – to name some examples – the NP can look at suitable places for commercial development, cycle routes, where a doctor's surgery should be, affordable housing, green space, café's with outdoor space, etc.

The NP does need to be reasonable and realistic, otherwise it will not be given permission.

There will be lots of opportunities for people in the community to get involved; by becoming part of the Forum, or of the Executive group which will be involved in the main aspects of the development of the NP. The NP, once recognised by the Council, would be able to decide on how 25% of the CIL money of local development is spent in the local area.

Charlotte Baker (CB) highlighted that this would be a much more democratic way of representing the local community. She emphasised that there would be a lot of work to do, and that other NF have taken up to 2 years to develop their plan.

**Both CL and CB voiced a 'call to action'! GET INVOLVED!!!**

*Addendum: EGRA Chair Dan Hayes would like to publicly acknowledge and thank Norma Welch for her contribution to launching the Neighbourhood Plan project on behalf of EGRA.*

### **Local Planning issues**

Richard Baglin (EGRA member and Chair of The Greenwich Society) pointed out that developers can submit additional planning applications under the (mis)nomer of 'Minor Amendments'. These in fact can include some major changes. There was a recent Minor Amendment submitted at the Lovell's Wharf site for an additional 12 residential units. There is also going to be a similar application for the development at Greenwich Square, where the developers want to add 44 flats. RB encourages members, when this goes to consultation, to object to this 'development creep'.

The Arches: currently nothing to report. The Greenwich Soc has been in touch with the new owner MeritCape. They have recently redeveloped the Moorish Market in Spitalfield, which has been done well and has been sensitive to the history of the building. The hope is that The Arches will be treated with similar sensitivity.

Studio 338 – This is a club on Tunnel Avenue which is applying for extended licencing, and to play music. EGRA will attend the licencing meeting and report back.

### **Greenwich Society**

Richard Baglin encourages EGRA members to join the Greenwich Soc, which would benefit from new, active, enthusiastic members.

### **Open Gardens weekend 18/19 June**

CB invites members to attend the Open Garden weekend and visit the quayside garden at Ballast Quay.

### **Street Cleansing**

Ray Smith reports back from the meeting he has with the Head of Street Services, together with Cllr Chris Lloyd. The new Head of Street Services is not satisfied with the current cleansing services and he would welcome a walk-about of the area to identify problems. He is working on proposals to improve the street cleaning and on the overall management of that service. RS will continue to pursue this and report back in due course.

RS encourages all members to use the 'contact' facility on the website to report any local problems with street cleaning or litter. Residents can also check when their street is due for cleaning on the website, which has a search facility ('when is my street being cleaned?')

### **Parking**

Steve Wreyford talked about the issues of parking in certain streets near to the new Enderby Wharf development. As most of the flats are sold without parking spaces, the new residents are using local streets to park, where there are only limited parking restrictions. SW expressed great concern about the affect this is having on local residents in these streets, and that there have been confrontations about the right to

park. Cllr Lloyd has suggested that restrictions on parking will be amended, however, it is unclear when this will be put in place.  
SW will report back.

In addition, apparently works traffic is coming down Azof /Mauritius Road, which it should not, and the site workers sit in vans at lunchtime with engines running. CB suggests that local residents take photographs of this to send to the Site Manager of the Barrett. CB will supply residents with the site managers e-mail address.

### **Local Project for Crowdfunding– ideas sought!**

Having successfully completed the Green Trafalgar Road project, EGRA suggests that we seek a new project to apply for funding from the Mayor's Highsteet Fund. He proposes developing the site next to Rothbury Hall (which is currently a redundant patch of land used as a dumping ground), to put in trees/planters etc. similar to what has been done with Woodland Walk. SW has been talking to the group that currently owns/runs Rothbury Hall to put such a project forward. Local businesses, such as Meantime Brewery and Universal Tires may be keen to be involved and make financial contributions to a crowdfunding initiative.

SW encourages members to put ideas forward.

### **Any other business**

Richard Baglin mentions a local project called 'Good Gym' which is run by people who combine exercising and volunteering. A small group of people go for a run, stop off somewhere to help out with a local project, and then run on! They are currently looking for small projects to help out with. Find out more at:

<https://www.goodgym.org/areas/greenwich>

*(Minutes by KJ).*