

East Greenwich Residents Association
Public Meeting Minutes
May 10th 2017

1. Community Greening (Woodlands Walk / Trafalgar Rd) – Sheila Keeble

Woodlands Walk Trees: The Crown are very kindly letting us use their water, hose pipe & watering can. The trees are doing well, but we need more volunteers to help with the watering both here & at the barriers, please send an email to inf@EGRA.london if you are able to help.

Trafalgar Rd Planters: The replanting of these has now been completed with pollution tolerant colourful plants. We'll be keeping watching brief to see which things survive. As we were planting there was lots of interest in the barriers & joining EGRA as well as a result. Robin the street cleaner has been extremely helpful particularly in assisting with the cleaning up. We have also established a liaison with Christchurch forum and they will water our barriers in exchange for us watering their gardens occasionally.

As well as doing planting, Patrick has also been attempting to get some litter bins, he has established a rapport with the council. 1 additional bin will be put outside KFC & the Italian Deli and one down Woodlands Walk. If there are any other places where litter bins would be useful, please feed back to us and we will raise to the council.

Discussion:

Issues raised around emptying of some public bins, particularly away from Trafalgar Rd. These should be raised to cleansing department at the council via this form: <https://fix.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/>, keep following these up, persistence is key and it will work eventually. Tweeting to the council, councillors and other local groups to get visibility also seems to have prioritised resolution.

A suggestion was made as to whether signage similar to that on the trees can be added to the barriers so that people are aware these are an EGRA project and not the council. It was also suggested that those working on the barriers could wear high visibility vests with EGRA on them to raise awareness further.

Action: Kate to print off & laminate versions of the signs on the trees to fix to the street barriers.

Vote of thanks for work on the barriers. Maybe we should set up a sub-committee for this. If anyone wants to volunteer at the end, speak to Steve or Sheila or send an email to info@egra.london.

2. Rothbury Hall – Sheila Keeble in Dan Haye's absence

This is a creative arts project for over 60s that includes some creative greening/gardening. Dan Hayes & Dan Bernstein from Emergency Exit Arts (EEA) are putting together a proposal for funding to that has been earmarked for use in combatting social isolation. EEA are keen to have some more community outreach. Outside Rothbury Hall itself is an immediate priority, it would be useful to identify some other places that can be greened, please feedback your suggestions.

Discussion:

The area outside of Anchor Iron Wharf was suggested as a possible project. Whitworth St could be a model for this with small bits of greening in amongst paving slabs etc. The RHS have come good

suggestions <https://www.rhs.org.uk/communities/campaigns/greening-grey-britain/ideas-and-inspiration>.

3. Thames Path – Sheila Keeble

Mary Mills & Sheila are putting together a group for the wellbeing of the Thames Path: past, present and future and are seeking volunteers. They already have representation from Greenwich cyclists and are looking to include those from: Greenwich Society, EGRA, Greenwich Millennium village with the aim to span the length of the path from Cutty Sark pub to Greenwich yacht club.

The first issue is the closure at Bellway, Barratt's have opened the gate on their side which is a great improvement, but we need to make sure that a similar closure doesn't happen when they start building on the cruise ship terminal.

We want to ensure that the path retains its character as there has been a problem with the blandification of the path in some cases.

4. Hanson Victoria Deep Water Terminal – Ian Blore/Sheila Keeble

High level details can be found on the Hanson website: <http://www.hanson.co.uk/en/upgrade-proposals-for-victoria-deep-water-terminal> or at the EGRA website [here](#).

Hanson are modernising the site, new cement & aggregate works and make segments for tunnels. Site tours have taken place with Greenwich Cyclists, Greenwich Society, Ian, Sheila & Charlotte from EGRA attending.

The main concern raised has been how to get the completed concrete segments from the works, across the Thames Path (which will be open) and onto barges. Hanson want to do it by low loader, we have requested that they use a gantry instead so the path does not have to be closed when this is happening. If it is a low loader that is used, we have asked how often the path be closed, for how long and in which locations. Hanson have said that they will be willing to discuss when they have a partner for the segments.

The new path Hanson were proposing round the site would be closed in and we have asked for railings so that people can see the river & the works.

The engagement from Hanson has been great and suggestion was that we should invite them to a future meeting to present and buy them a drink.

Planning application has been submitted and will be heard at a planning meeting by the end of the month.

5. EU Petition, Silvertown Tunnel & Air Quality Update – Ian Blore

Air Quality is being used as a focus for many issues in this area, including the cruise liner terminal, Enderby wharf, traffic etc. We will keep this update brief but post a comprehensive update to the EGRA website when we have the latest air quality results. The study has been limited this time, it will be used to track trends. We will do one survey this year, and then maybe next year or year after. We have chosen 5 locations to do this and they will be used to check whether the developments prove to be air quality neutral or not.

The Green Party have done a similar survey on the other half of the peninsula, and we will report on that as well. This all feeds into having data and ammunition to try and stop the environment being degraded.

Cruise Liner Terminal

We have had a meeting with the deputy mayor, they listened and were committed to subsequent meetings with Matt Pennycook, but this is on hold for the election. These should happen after the general election and include the developers as well.

We have also filed a petition to the EU parliament, this has now been registered and is being scrutinised by the petitions committee. We have support from the chairman of the committee, two of our labour MEPs and very luckily we have strong support from the Labour group and they are pushing it forward quite positively. The secretariat will declare whether this is an EU matter or not, then it will be formally rubber stamped by the petitions committee and then it goes up to the commission. The commission will then either knock heads together or might even send it to the EU court of justice. This meshes in with the Client Earth judicial action in our own courts together with reference to the EU court of justice. We are moving down those 2 paths: Regional (London) & Europe. The issue is still live & being talked about, as long as we can do that we're not losing.

There is a third route with the British Government. Client Earth took the government to court again and they had to publish their AQ plan. Annex G in that doc refers to ports and shipping, but the gov't appear to have abdicated responsibility to international maritime organisation. Ralph has gone to Client Earth to have some help responding to the petitions to say they need to take some responsibility for AQ in shipping. One MP has introduced a clean air bill which does include maritime in it.

ITN have been filming a dispatches shot in July. Paul Wyatt has been making his film which includes a lot about the terminal & Frank Kelly spoke about it.

Silvertown Tunnel

This is looking very likely. In the autumn the secretary of state will make a decision on whether this will go ahead, TFL are pretty confident that it will. TFL are shortlisting contractors, expect to start work early 2019. There will be 3 lanes each way, 1 of which is bus lane & will toll all the tunnels. Modelling suggests no increase in traffic and as a result they don't need to do any work on feeder roads or worry about the environment. There is also an argument that traffic will flow faster resulting in less pollution, but increased noise. Greenwich council, Tower Hamlets & Southwark councils are all sceptical, but the secretary of state will make decisions. TFL want to have the right to increase & decrease tolls to control traffic and will give 50% discounts to those with low income. More bus routes will be added, but not as many as first wanted.

Upcoming dates: The final planning inspectorate report is due end of July, the Secretary of State decision is due in the autumn, aim to start 2018/2019 and finish 2023. TFL want permission to close the river whenever they like during construction, the PLA have concerns about this.

No to Silvertown Tunnel are having their AGM 8pm 16th May at Mycenae House.

6. Planning Items:

a. Anchor Iron Wharf – Monique Tomlinson

Licensing subcommittee hearing on 15th May due to the number of objections raised. EGRA has not raised an objection but is keeping a watching brief to ensure that the public space is not 'land grabbed' as an outside area for the restaurant.

b. Studio 338 – Louise Fletcher

Heads up to members that this application has been submitted and deadline for comments was 5th May.

7. CIL & Section 106 Payments – Ray Smith

Section 106 is essentially for a developer to contribute to facilities that are essential in the building and planning of a big project. As an example, if a developer is going to build a new town, then it is going to need a Doctor's surgery, school etc. the money for this comes from the section 106.

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) are a more recent development, the act that deals with CIL, means that developers are required to make a contribution pro rata based on the square footage of the development. Given the size of developments in both East & West Greenwich, the amount of money is vast. Under the legislation the local authority who manage the CIL is obliged to consult with the community on up to 15% of the levy that comes from a development. Our aim is to ensure that we are consulted on this 15%. Ever since CIL was introduced it has been almost impossible to engage with the council on how & where the levy will be spent, despite the fact that they are obliged by law to consult.

Proposal is that we form a group across the various Greenwich associations (Greenwich Society, Westcombe Society, EGRA etc.) to move this forward with the purpose of establishing how much money available, how the council propose to spend it and where.

Volunteers please step forward, approach Ray at the end or send an email to info@egra.london.

Discussion:

Suggestion of a freedom of information request, this has been tried but was not successful, further requests may be tried. There are considerable pulls from Abbey Wood & Plumstead to use CIL / 106 monies and views that a lot of this is being spent there, Chris Lloyd has contested the truth about this, but has not provided detail to back this up to date.

8. AOB

No further items were raised and the meeting was closed.