



Rt Hon. Michael Gove, MP
Secretary of State for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR

26th February 2018

Dear Minister,

Planned Cruise Liner Terminal at Enderby Wharf, Greenwich

We are writing to you on behalf of residents based in East Greenwich and Island Gardens, Tower Hamlets. Further to our letter of July last year, we would be grateful for the opportunity to draw your attention, once more, to the plans for a major international cruise liner terminal based in Greenwich and the threat it poses to increasing London's air pollution problems.

Greenwich Council granted permission for the terminal in December 2015. Under the current permission, berthed vessels will be free to burn diesel fumes 24 hours a day, seven days a week for six of the warmest months in the year. Estimates, which are undisputed by all parties, confirm that a typical ship would burn 700 litres of diesel an hour emitting the equivalent levels of nitrogen dioxide and particulates as 688 idling heavy goods vehicles. Furthermore, berthed vessels typically burn diesel with one hundred times more sulphur content than road diesel without any post combustion mitigation such as catalysis of particulate filters.

The permission also provides for the construction of hundreds of new homes alongside the terminal as part of the Enderby Wharf development. The terminal will neighbour thousands of existing homes and several schools close to the centre of Greenwich and the famous Maritime Greenwich World Heritage site. The terminal site is situated close to the Blackwall Tunnel in a part of Greenwich that already exceeds pollution levels and, paradoxically, will come within the Mayor's Low Emission Zone. Despite receiving cross party support for our cause at the London Assembly and securing a firm pre-election pledge from the Mayor to bring all parties together to find a solution, he has completely failed to act.

Greenwich Council has shown scant regard for the public health issues posed by the new terminal and steadfastly ignored the call from communities in Greenwich and Tower Hamlets to stipulate or broker the installation of a clean onshore power supply. The project expects to yield substantial financial gain, and yet a comparatively minor investment to safeguard against harmful emissions

has been denied. As part of the large scale redevelopment of the Greenwich Peninsular area, which is the largest regeneration project in London, thousands of new riverside homes as well as massive infrastructure and utility investment are planned.

It is difficult to understand the justification for rejecting a clean onshore power source and permitting a development that presents a major increase in London's diesel emissions at a time when the Government is trying to reverse that trend.

The Alternative Fuels Directive 2014/94/EU will make the cruise port redundant in 2025 when an alternative power source to diesel will become obligatory. From this perspective, Greenwich Council has been myopic in its planning. As it stands, the construction of the cruise port in its current form is a regressive step and risks becoming a white elephant as well as a major embarrassment to London both economically and environmentally. The threat posed by the terminal flies in the face of the Government's 25 year strategy to improve air quality and undermines its commitment to reduce harmful emissions. We welcome the Government's strategy, but we are disappointed to see that there is no provision within the policy or current consultation tackling emissions from vessels within our waters.

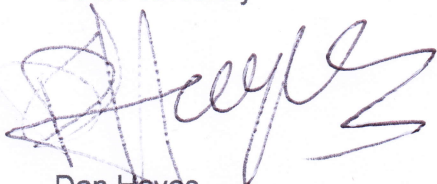
We have now exhausted all legal routes within the UK and EU, which have fallen down mainly due to planning technicalities and jurisdiction issues. In particular, we were recently advised by the European Commission that it was the responsibility of national governments to implement the Air Quality Directive.

The current status of the Enderby Wharf development is that it is currently being offered for sale by Morgan Stanley and Barratt Homes, and an opportunity now presents itself to resume discussions on a clean energy supply with prospective buyers.

We now turn to you as the Secretary of State and ask you to use your power to intervene and consider the opportunity provided by transforming a dirty and polluted yet high profile project into a clean and green innovation that can be an example to other leading cities and put London and the UK ahead of the pack. The Port of Los Angeles has already successfully implemented a Nitrogen Emission Control Area (NECA) in its waters to deal with emissions in its waters.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue directly with you and to provide you with more detailed information as well as some options for achieving resolution for all parties concerned. We understand that you have already had a short conversation on this issue with Ralph Hardwick, who has since followed up his communication with Lucy Lim in your private office.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dan Hayes', with a stylized, looped flourish at the end.

Dan Hayes
Chair, East Greenwich Residents Association
www.egra.london

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rd', with a stylized, looped flourish at the end.

Ralph Hardwick
Tower Hamlets Resident