

Crossrail Action Group, volunteers meeting 6th November 2004

Present at meeting:

Denise Warwick	Glenda Paddle	Alan Clarke
Barbara Smith	R J Phillips	Karen Clarke
Ron Treslove	Tony Wood	Julie Griffin
Bob Sinfield	Terri Wood	Pat Harber
Barry Harber	Patricia Rumble	Vicki White
Laura Smith	Susan Goldman	Margaret Green
Paul Smith	Roger Jenkins	Myra Kayne
Fred Osborne	Pam Baker	S Hoad
Clair Osborne	M Mosley	Stephen Doe
Mrs Melpuss	Kevin Higgins	Hayley Smith

1. **Tony Wood**- opened meeting by handing out copy of representation made to Lord Montague along with copy of Early Day Motion and questions prepared for People's Question Time.
Explained that committee had to be formed for legal purposes.
2. **Stephen Doe**- explained why Romford had been chosen i.e. Brownfield site included in plans. Confirmed that despite not being properly informed as to round one consultation and round two not being satisfactory, Crossrail are determined to use Romford depot option. Explained that Ilford will not be used as its current use is to continue, and Stratford will not be considered because of the Olympic bid. Another round of Crossrail information units to take place in January.
3. *Explained early day motion and highlighted the fact that Linda Perham's amendment effectively negates the original. The suggestion is that campaigners write to the M.P.'s, whose names are included. Early Day Motion to be put on website.*
4. Confirmed that Havering Council support us.
5. *London Forum meeting on 16th November highlighted.*
6. Freedom of Information Act will mean that we should be have access to any information that has until now, been withheld.
7. **Glenda Paddle** – Introduction
8. Main concern, children's safety due to increased traffic during construction.
9. *Also concerned about children and teachers being able to reach school on time. Bonzer bootsale on Thursday's already problematic.*
10. Meeting between Barking and Dagenham and Crossrail on Monday 18th October 2004. Became apparent that neither Jon Cruddas or the local councillors were aware as to how Crossrail would affect Barking and Dagenham, as by Crossrail's own admission, the area had not been consulted.
11. *Glenda gave Jon Cruddas a tour of the area to be affected.*
12. Jon Cruddas is to meet with B&D Planning Officer and two other council officials to find out what they know about plans, and will then meet with councillors at a later date, to update them as to his findings.
13. *Jon Cruddas committed to working with Andrew Rosindell wherever possible and has also suggested that it may be good to involve Redbridge, if possible.*
14. As Governor's at local schools in Barking and Dagenham, both Glenda and Jon Cruddas have agreed to make Crossrail an agenda item at Governor's meetings.
15. *Will find out if the free B&D paper 'Citizen' will highlight problem.*
16. **Alan Clarke** – gave an overview as to the work he has done with regard to Westlands Rough, Westlands Playing Fields and Footpath 123.
17. *Alan explained the differences in 'grading', ranging from grade 3, Site of Special Scientific Interest, down to grade 1, as in the case of Westlands Rough, which is a 'site of importance for nature conservation', a site of local interest. Alan hopes to find a way to get 'the rough' upgraded to a level 2.*
18. He went on to explain that the area has an array of different types of trees, plants and grasses and has diverse wildlife. The wildlife includes some protected species, namely the Pipistrelle Bat, Stag Beetle and Common Lizard.
19. *Entomologists (insect experts) from Essex Field Club have agreed to survey Westlands Rough in May 2005.*
20. A line of Crack Willow trees separating Westlands Playing Fields and Westlands Rough are situated where the 'dive under' will be. Although not rare, the Crack Willow is unique to this part of Romford, and as such may be subject to receiving a Tree Preservation Order (T.P.O.). Alan is to petition the local area and photograph the trees. He will then submit a case to the Council.
21. *Alan suggested that local residents should complain to Havering Council about the state of the railway embankment along Footpath 123 since work to replace boundary fence has been carried out.*
22. **Kevin Higgins**- Gave a brief overview of the Thames Gateway Meeting that he attended on 11th October 2004.
23. *Residents in Spitalfields and surrounding East London areas are concerned as to the effect the construction will have to their homes and livelihoods. Up to 30 trucks per day will serve the construction of ventilation shafts that is 60 journeys through their already congested streets.*
24. Another suggested method of spoil removal is the building of a tunnel from the works to a park in Mile End, recently developed at the cost of millions of pounds. The spoil will remain there for up to 3 years before being removed.

25. *He was impressed as to the chairing of the meeting and the quality of the Crossrail input in comparison to that given to the residents of Romford by James Ryan and his associates.*
26. **Hayley Smith** – Briefly outlined the purpose of the website and the different sections.
27. *Statistics – total of 703 new visitors since website went live 29th August, which averages 10 new visitors a day.*
28. Explained that in order for information to be shared effectively, more message board submissions are needed.
29. *Any new, feasible ideas are welcomed.*
30. **Tony Wood** – Explained that as time goes on, we will need professional help in order to make sense of the detailed jargon that is bound to come out of the Consultation and Environmental Impact Assessments. We need to fundraise to pay the required donation to Planning Aid for London in order to secure the help of Megan Thomas.
31. **Denise Warwick** – explained her idea for a raffle. Possibly Christmas/New Year. Volunteers present agreed to try to sell tickets to friends and family. Raffle will be publicised on a newsletter at the end of November.
32. **Other fundraising suggestions:** Auction of donated items (new or old), *Quiz Night (end of January/beginning February – speak to Roger Jenkins re: questions)*, Car Boot Sale (possibly in the spring), *Jumble Sale*, disco, *car cleaning session*.
33. *Roger Jenkins and Susan Goldman, newly elected Governors at Crowlands Primary School, will ask Mrs Hancock, Head teacher, if she is prepared to allow us a small area at the Christmas Fair to use for fundraising.*
34. **Late suggestion:** 3 – 4 years ago the residents of Paddington won compensation for disturbance during works being carried out to track and signalling during the Paddington Basin Development. Can we research this and find out if it will have a bearing on our campaign.
35. **Crowlands School** – *year 6 pupils are doing a project on Conservation and Pollution and are using Crossrail as a topic. The school are keen to be involved with the campaign. Suggested idea is that we ask the school to arrange a poster competition for the New Year. To be discussed further.*
36. **Newsletter** – to be compiled and issued at the end of November along with Christmas posters.

We would like to say a very special ‘thank you’ to Roger Jenkins and Susan Goldman for offering to liaise with Crowlands Primary School, in their capacity as School Governors, with regard to an awareness or fundraising stall at the schools Christmas Fair. We would also like to thank Vicki White for her offer to donate a prize for the raffle.