



CROSSRAIL ACTION GROUP

WHAT C.A.G. HAVE DONE

SO FAR!

ISSUE 1



- **15th July 2004** – Alistair Darling gave Crossrail the green light.
- **28th July 2004** - a group of residents joined together at a meeting at St Andrew's Church to form the *Crossrail Action Group*.
- **30th July 2004** - C.A.G. members met in Crow Lane and we had our first photo shoot and press interviews. Later in the day members were interviewed for the Time F.M. radio news.
- **Week commencing 16th August** - C.A.G. members spent evenings knocking at doors, explaining how the Crossrail depot and associated work will affect residents and asking them to sign a petition against it.
- **21st August 2004** – C.A.G. members petitioned in Romford Market. Andrew Rosindell M.P. lent his support.
- **30th August 2004** – Contact was made with the Green Party members at the London Assembly, who kindly agreed to ask questions on our behalf at the next Mayors question time.
- **3rd September 2004** – C.A.G. members and local residents met for a photo shoot and press interviews at Westlands Rough. Andrew Rosindell M.P and councillors from both the Brooklands Ward and Whalebone Ward joined them.
- **7th September 2004** – London Assembly member for Havering and Redbridge, Roger Evans, met with C.A.G. and listened to our concerns. He too agreed to raise questions on our behalf at the next Mayors question time.
- Margaret Mullane Parliamentary Spokeswoman for Romford Labour Party fully supports the CAG Campaign. She believes that the proposals should be withdrawn, as they will completely blight the area, and will have a massive detrimental effect on the environment of the people living in the area. Margaret believes a brown field site outside of Romford should be found for the Sidings and depot.
You can e-mail Margaret Mullane at Margaret.mullane@1stquote.co.uk or phone: 01708 764824
- **14th September 2004** – *Crossrail Action Group* members joined Andrew Rosindell to hand the 2200 signature petition in to 10 Downing Street.
- C.A.G. then joined other residents to watch the petition being presented to the Chamber of the House of Commons.
- All parties were then shown to a committee room in the House of Commons, where C.A.G. members and other residents put their questions to Bernard Gambrell and James Ryan of Crossrail. Unfortunately, due to their diversity, most questions remained unanswered and Crossrail agreed to take the 100 questions away with them and give written answers. James Ryan has confirmed that the answers should be available to us by the first week in October. The questions can be viewed on our website at www.romfordcag.co.uk and the answers will be added when we get them
- **15th September 2004** - Questions were tabled on our behalf at Mayors question time by Jenny Jones (Green Party) and Roger Evans (Conservative). The questions and answers can be viewed on our website at www.romfordcag.co.uk
- **17th September 2004** – with the agreement of the head teachers of the Crowlands Primary Schools, the children were given leaflets to take home to their parents informing them of the proposed development on Westlands playing fields. One supportive parent has expressed a wish to pass the following points on to this wider audience:
 1. **Two train tracks, an access road, a large worksite and a tunnel are to be built on Westlands, which will bring years of chaos to this well populated area of Havering.**
 2. **A new bridge will be placed alongside the existing one in Jutsums Lane to allow trains to run alongside Jutsums Park and on towards the proposed new depot.**
 3. **We face years of noise and pollution during construction and will be left with noise from slow moving rail stock forever more.**
 4. **A group of concerned residents are opposed to the Crossrail depot being crammed into a residential area of Romford, which can only be accessed via the tunnel on Westlands.**
 5. **We are concerned that children are losing their right to a healthy life – Havering has lost School fields and playing fields in very recent years**
 6. **There are potential sites better able to absorb this depot and we feel that Romford has been seen as the option of least resistance. ACT NOW, WHILE YOU STILL CAN**
- C.A.G. have contacted St. Edwards School and hoping for a similar response.
- **Monday 20th September** – C.A.G. representatives attended a meeting at Romford Town Hall, with the leader of the council, Cllr. Michael White, and Brooklands Ward councillors Jean Gower and Barry Tebutt.
- We were pleased to learn that all of the councillors present agreed that Romford was definitely the wrong location

- **A note from Alan:** Since we have started our Campaign we have all learnt a lot about our local environment and have realized that there is a lot of wildlife that is locally unique. This could all disappear under Crossrail's present proposals. It has made me realize that our wildlife and Green Belt is being pushed aside in the name of progress. Although much is made of environmental conservation and Green Belt issues, at the end of the day does it really matter what is happening in our area? **Yes!** Wildlife in Westlands / Brooklands is unique to this part of Havering and although deemed that many genuses are common, any loss will forever deprive our community and the next generation of seeing them here. It matters to me about our local Wildlife and Green Belt. And I feel that Havering Council should be taking an active interest with our attempts at conservation and protection of our Green Belt. I am continuing to try to persuade the relevant authority to upgrade the status of the area known as **Westlands Rough**, to ensure its continued protection from development.

WHAT NEXT?

- The most recent plans from Crossrail show a reduction in the amount of Westlands Rough to be annexed during construction. **PLANS FOR WESTLANDS PLAYING FIELDS REMAIN UNCHANGED.**
- It is proposed to have a Members Briefing on the Crossrail issue at the Council, so that all of Havering's councillors can be fully informed about the Crossrail development proposals. We will advise you of the outcome.
- Traffic issues for the development area are to be discussed at council level.
- Councillors have agreed that a noise impact assessment should be obtained and will look into achieving that on our behalf through the appropriate council department.
- Roger Evans, London Assembly member for Havering and Redbridge has offered to hand our 2200signature petition to the Mayor, Ken Livingstone. We are currently in the process of arranging this.
- One of our members is to attend an informal meeting with Green Party London Assembly members in order to consolidate a working relationship with them.
- The Mayor's People's Question time is to be held in West London on 11th November (venue and time to be confirmed). It has been suggested that C.A.G. members and residents should attend this meeting and put their questions to the Mayor. We will be tabling questions for written answers too.
- Barking and Dagenham M.P. Jon Cruddas is to organise a meeting between the residents of Chadwell Heath and Crossrail. The date, time and venue are still to be confirmed. You can write to Jon Cruddas for more information about the meeting (contact details below).

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT!

- We are in a situation whereby we may need to seek legal advice. We have a couple of options open to us, but they will come at a price therefore we would also still be grateful for any free professional/legal advice/representation
- The Crossrail Action Group is not funded and all work so far has been done at cost to the individual members or by spontaneous donation, as with the website. We are not sure at present what other expenses this campaign could involve. We do not want to ask for donations but wonder if fundraising might be an option. With that in mind, we may need to establish a fundraising arm to this group. If there are residents out there who think they could organise a jumble sale or quiz night etc, please contact Clive on 01708 742683 or e-mail us at cagel04@hotmail.com
- We still need volunteers to deliver leaflets on The Waterloo Road estate, in Oldchurch Road and Dagenham Road. If you live in these roads and can deliver leaflets to your own street, please contact **Clive** on **01708 742683** or e-mail us at cagel04@hotmail.com
- If you are already one of our volunteers, but would like to be more involved or if you haven't felt able to join us before now, but would like to help, please contact us. The more the merrier!

Contact Andrew Rosindell, MP for Romford:

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Please support the Crossrail Action Group.

Log on to our website
www.romfordcag.co.uk

Sign our on-line petition at
[http://www.petitionOnline.com/CA
GEL04/](http://www.petitionOnline.com/CA
GEL04/)

Join our growing band of volunteers
on
01708 742683.

Contact John Cruddas, MP for Barking and Dagenham:

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