



CROSSRAIL ACTION GROUP
WHAT C.A.G. HAVE DONE
SO FAR!



ISSUE 2

We need your help with fundraising!

Chase away those post festive blues and join us for a giggle when we hold our first C.A.G. **Quiz Night on 29th January 2005**, at St Agnes Hall, Jutsums Lane. Further details will follow after Christmas.

Please note that due to a computer malfunction, all bulk update e-mail addresses have been lost from our records. We have put a message to this effect on the website, and would like to invite anyone wishing to continue to receive our updates, to resubmit their details through the website. Our apologies for any inconvenience caused. For those that have not registered for updates, please feel free to do so by logging onto the website at: www.romfordcag.co.uk

Crossrail Compensation- A resident from Sheringham Avenue asked Crossrail about compensation. They replied stating that she lived OUTSIDE the boundaries set for compensation entitlement. She lives about 50 metres from the proposed depot. Anyone wishing to check their status can e-mail their address details to Crossrail at: safeguarding@crossrail.co.uk

We have been very busy since our last newsletter. C.A.G. have written letters to the following:

- **Linda Perham M.P.** – Ilford North Labour M.P. and Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group on *Crossrail*. We have asked her to listen to our concerns and take account of them when seeing the Hybrid Bill through Parliament.
- **Gwyneth Dunwoody M.P.** – Labour Chairman of the Transport Select Committee. She has promised to ask the Department of Transport for details of the *Crossrail* plan.
- **John Bowis (Conservative), Jean Lambert (Green Party) and Robert Evans (Labour) – M.E.P.'s.** To date we have received a reply from John Bowis who, although supportive of the concept of *Crossrail*, agrees that it should be planned sensitively and take account of local concerns like ours. He has promised to take this up with the managers of the project. Jean Lambert has said she is to have a meeting with *Crossrail* and will discuss our worries with them.
- **Sport England** and have received a reply reaffirming their policy on Playing Fields. We hope to hear more from them once planned discussions with *Crossrail* have taken place.

Other achievements include:

- Andrew Rosindell M.P. has put forward an **Early Day Motion** in Parliament on our behalf. This reads:

'That this House deeply regrets the decision of Cross London Rail Links Ltd., who with support from the Government are planning to build a large depot in central Romford to service trains intended to operate on the proposed Crossrail network; believes that this decision is ill thought-out and has not taken into consideration the negative effect that the development and subsequent use of this depot will have on the quality of life of those who live in the surrounding area, the environment and availability of open spaces and playing fields; and therefore urges both the Government and Crossrail to rethink the proposed location for the depot and choose a site that will cause less disruption to the lives of local residents in Romford'

This has been signed by the following M.P.'s: David Amess (Southend West – Cons.), Andrew Rosindell (Romford – Cons), Bob Spink (Castle Point – Cons), Teddy Taylor (Rochford and Southend East – Cons), Angela Watkinson (Upminster – Cons), Jon Cruddas (Dagenham – Labour), Lindsay Hoyle (Chorley – Labour), Mike Hancock (Portsmouth South – Lib Dem) and Bob Russell (Colchester – Lib Dem). We would like to thank all these M.P.'s for their support.

- **However**, this Early Day Motion has been countered by an **amendment proposal by Linda Perham**, who is the Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group on *Crossrail* and whose job it is to see the Hybrid Bill through Parliament. The amendment reads:

'Line 1, leave out from 'House' to end and add 'notes the concern expressed by local residents in Romford about the Crossrail depot proposed for that area; notes also that the location is a brownfield site already owned by Network Rail; commends Cross London Rail Links Ltd for its extensive dialogue with affected residents and urges the company, residents and local politicians to work together to achieve a solution that ensures this essential infrastructure project is realised as soon as possible.'

We need you to write individual letters to the M.P.'s who have supported her ammendmet. They are as follows: Tony Banks (West Ham- Labour), Karen Buck (Regents Park and Kensington North- Labour), Anne Cryer (Keighly- Labour), Mike Gapes (Ilford South- Labour), Linda Perham (Ilford North- Labour), Syd Rapson (Portsmouth North- Labour), Martin Salter (Reading West- Labour), Alan Simpson (Nottingham South- Labour), Rudi Vis (Finchly and Golders Green- Labour). It would be a great help if you could choose at leaset a couple of M.P.'s to write to.

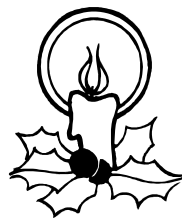
It is our feeling that these M.P.'s are ill-informed as to the facts of the proposed *Crossrail* development in Romford and it is up to the people of Romford to rectify that. All letters can be sent via Andrew Rosindell M.P. at **House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA** and should be copied, where possible, to the M.P.'s parliamentary agent.

- The *Crossrail Action Group* has engaged the services of barrister. Our Chairman, Tony Wood has followed her instruction and has sent a written petition to *Crossrail*. As we understand it, this will allow us to sit in on any select committee meetings.
- At a local level, we were officially given the support of the 10th Romford Scouts. They issued the following statement:

'The 10th Romford Scout Group support the action currently being taken by the *Romford Crossrail Action Group* in protecting and maintaining the natural environment in and around Westlands Rough and Playing Fields by opposing the proposed *Crossrail* development on this site.' – We are most grateful for their support.

- On 11th October 2004, C.A.G. members were invited to attend a meeting between Havering Council and *Crossrail* on an **observer only** basis. The *Crossrail depot scheme* was not favourably received by the Council.
- C.A.G. members then had a separate meeting with James Ryan of *Crossrail*, to discuss the answers given to our 100 questions. Many ongoing issues are still to be resolved.
- Also on 11th October, another group of C.A.G. members attended a meeting between Spitalfields and *Crossrail*. Contacts have been made with residents in this badly affected area and we will liase with concerned parties in that area.
- On 18th October, Barking and Dagenham residents, their M.P. Jon Cruddas and their local councillors, met with *Crossrail*. The residents have the support of these representatives, in their campaign against the *Crossrail Development*.
- On 24th October, members of C.A.G. met with the Oldchurch Road Action Group, and whilst continuing to work separately for our own causes, we did agree that we should put out a joint press release, slamming the overwhelming amount of construction work in the Brooklands area.
- On 6th November the committee called a meeting of volunteers to discuss fundraising issues. We will have to fundraise in order to pay the contribution required by Planning Aid for London. Suggestions for fundraising include a raffle, auction of donated items, quiz night and a 70's/80's disco.
- Crowlands Junior School have shown an interest in our campaign and in order to support their year 6 Conservation and Pollution project, we have agreed to sponsor a Poster Competition for the children. C.A.G. will give a prize each for the best persuasive posters designed **a)** in favour of the depot, and **b)** against the depot. The aim is to involve the children and to support their project in Conservation and Pollution whilst respecting their views.
- On 11th November, C.A.G. attended People's Question Time in Acton. We put 7 written questions to the Mayor, Ken Livingstone, and expect answers early in the New Year.
- On 16th November, members attended a meeting at the London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies at Faringdon, where there were talks given by representatives of *Crossrail* and Channel Tunnel Rail Link.
- The *Crossrail Action Group's* 2302 signature petition will be handed in to the Mayor at City Hall on 8th December at 10am. Anyone wishing to see the petition presented may do so from the visitor's gallery. No booking required, but it is advisable to phone the day before to confirm the time as this is subject to change. Phone: 020 7983 4000

Attached, you will find your *Christmas Crossrail Action Group* Poster. Please don't just remove the old one when the decorations go up, replace it with this festive version and bring a smile to your neighbours' faces!



The ***Crossrail Action Group Committee*** would like to thank you
all for your support and we wish you a very
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!