

From: RUDDOCK, Joan [mailto:joan.ruddock.mp@parliament.uk]
Sent: Monday, December 02, 2013 6:02 PM
To: Thames Tunnel
Subject: Thames Tunnel – Deptford Church Street

Planning Inspectorate

Dear Sir/Madam

Thames Tunnel – Deptford Church Street

I am writing to formally respond about the Thames Tunnel Project. I have previously stated I do not object to the Thames Tunnel project as a whole, however I do object to the use of Deptford Church Street site, located within my constituency, as the preferred site to intercept the Deptford Storm Relief CSO.

I do not believe that the Deptford Church Street site is preferable to Thames Water's original preferred site of Borthwick Wharf. I am certain that the Deptford Church Street site is inappropriate.

The site is located within Evelyn Ward within my constituency, bordering New Cross Ward. The area has one of the highest levels of deprivation in Lewisham (Lewisham is currently ranked 31st most deprived of the 326 Local Authorities in England). As an area of inner London open green space it is at a premium. The land enclosed by Deptford Church Street is in close proximity to the Grade 1 listed St Paul's Church, St Joseph's Primary School, businesses and residences.

Local residents have copied me into their responses, many of them having written passionately about the lack of alternative open, green areas in the vicinity. Having represented this area for many years I am well aware of how built up the area is. The length of time my constituents will be deprived of this space and the continued presence of Thames Water onsite after the works are finished mean that any future promises for the area are negated. If Thames Water proceeds with this site for over four years my constituents will be confronted with a building site instead of one of the few open areas available to them. The construction works proposed will result in noise, dust and air pollution affecting all those who live, work, learn and visit that area.

Deptford Church Street is also classified as a site of nature conservation importance in the adopted UDP and I understand that if Lewisham Council were the local planning authority for this application it would either refuse permission or at least require an environmental appraisal containing methods of migration and proposals for consultation. I also understand that Lewisham Council have expressed further concerns about the Habitat Survey which was conducted.

The proximity of St Joseph's School is of particular concern to me. While the site will be disruptive for residents, it will be even more disruptive for pupils with work on the site being conducted during school hours. Four years will

impact significantly on many children's education occupying most of the primary years for a large number. I understand that the Deptford Church Street site is used by the school during evacuations and there are concerns about whether other sites for gathering would lead to delays in ensuring that pupils are safe.

Residents have expressed concern about the impact on properties and I am entirely supportive of these concerns. The businesses on Crossfield Street would suffer from the disruption and I have seen very little analysis about how they and other businesses in the area will be impacted.

I also remain concerned about any potential impact on St Pauls Church. Lewisham Deptford is an area of great historical significance. The prospect of several years work on a site next to a Grade 1 listed building is a genuine concern and entirely inappropriate given the tiny number of significant buildings still standing in this area.

Traffic on Deptford Church Street is already congested. I frequently travel along this street and I know from personal experience how congested the road can become especially on the not infrequent occasions when the Rotherhithe or Blackwall tunnels are closed. Closing the two northbound lanes, using the southbound lanes to maintain two way access and subjecting the area to, at its peak an average of 24 lorries a day will make life intolerable for both those who live and work in the area and those who use the A2209 to travel through the area. The temporary suspension of the bus lanes and the movement on bus stops would have a severe impact on those who use buses in the area. Car ownership in Lewisham is low. 42.8% of households in Lewisham do not have access to a car (the London average is 37.5%); A majority of local people will be using the buses. Concerns have also been raised with me about the safety of cyclists who currently use the bus lanes, but would be forced on to the existing southbound carriageways with other road users.

I am also aware of the amount of other development that is either underway in the area or going through the planning process. There appears to be little regard for the cumulative effect of all these potential works.

Throughout the consultation documents Thames Water emphasised how much the river will be used in the project so as not to add strain to an already congested road network. However, in complete contradiction it cited a benefit of the Deptford Church Street site being that it was not on the foreshore.

For the reasons set out above I hope that the Planning Inspectorate will listen to my concerns, the concerns of local residents and businesses and the concerns of Lewisham Council over this aspect of the Thames Tunnel Project.

Yours faithfully

Rt Hon Dame Joan Ruddock MP

UK Parliament Disclaimer:

This e-mail is confidential to the intended recipient. If you have received it in error, please notify the sender and delete it from your system. Any unauthorised use, disclosure, or copying is not permitted. This e-mail has been checked for viruses, but no liability is accepted for any damage caused by any virus transmitted by this e-mail.

This email was received from the INTERNET and scanned by the Government Secure Intranet anti-virus service supplied by Vodafone in partnership with Symantec. (CCTM Certificate Number 2009/09/0052.) In case of problems, please call your organisation's IT Helpdesk.

Communications via the GSi may be automatically logged, monitored and/or recorded for legal purposes.

Correspondents should note that all communications to Department for Communities and Local Government may be automatically logged, monitored and/or recorded for lawful purposes.
