

FRIENDS of DANSON PARK

OBJECTOR NO. 1199

PROPOSED THAMES GATEWAY BRIDGE

SUMMARY OUTLINE PROOF OF EVIDENCE

30 MAY 2005

Personal

My name is Lynn Batham and I appear at this Inquiry on behalf of The Friends of Danson Park as an objector. I reserve the right to call on David Bissell as Chairmen in my place if I am unavailable.

Background

Friends of Danson Park were founded in 2001. A voluntary group, numbering 80 active members approximately and supporting the views of another 100 members, formed, in conjunction with Bexley Council with the aim of promoting and protecting the interests of the Park users of all activities and varied groups and of promoting the Environment and the protection and enhancement of the wildlife in Danson Park and its environs.

Scope of evidence

We consider the proposed Thames Gateway Bridge to be an ill thought out scheme that is being promoted with great haste by Transport for London and Ken Livingstone with complete disregard for the environmental, traffic, noise and air pollution effects of the traffic from this Bridge on the residents of Bexley Borough

Lynn Batham will be appearing in capacity as Publicity officer for the Group to provide evidence as an objector.

Reference will be made to documents / reports from commissioned Academics which are not yet available.

Unsustainable roads

The nature of the road network on the South side of the Thames and Bexley Borough in particular, is very different from the one on the North side. Roads on the north side are generally dual carriageway, grade separated roads with very little residential frontage. In Bexley ,routes from and to the Bridge will involve much traffic extensively using residential streets that are not designed for large traffic flows. In particular the road which runs along the side of Danson Park we see will be used as a direct route to the A2 major road which is in direct line with the Bridge.

Lack of Consultation

It is our view that Transport for London had a deliberate agenda inwitholding proper consultation from the people of Bexley Borough about the true impact of this proposed Bridge on the quality of their lives and their living environment after the Bridge would be built.

Residents who would be most affected by the impact of this bridge,did not know at a late stage any details of the Bridge. Only when Objector groups were able to inform them were they aware.

Traffic Modelling

We will be challenging Traffic modelling reports based on academic reports we have commissioned.

It is our contention that Transport for Londons traffic modelling is outdated and flawed and totally unrepresentative of realistic figures if the Bridge is built.

I reserve the right to expand upon the above points and add further points as necessary and issues that may arise at the Inquiry, to my proof of evidence.

