



Members Room

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Bexley Civic Offices
Broadway Bexleyheath
Kent DA6 7LB
020 8303 7777
DX31807 Bexleyheath
www.bexley.gov.uk

Rt Hon Ruth Kelly MP
Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Minister	RK
Subject	Local Planning
Official	CHRIS HENT

24 October 2006

Dear Ms Kelly

Thames Gateway Bridge Public Enquiry

I believe you will shortly receive the report from the inspector appointed to hold the public enquiry into the Thames Gateway Bridge. I understand that you will take the final decision on this jointly with the Secretary of State for Transport.

I want to urge you most strongly to refuse planning permission for the Bridge.

Bexley Council's position, established at a meeting of the Planning Control Committee in November 2004, is "this Council supports the construction of the Thames Gateway Bridge, but remains concerned about the environmental impact of the traffic levels likely to be generated on the quality of life of residents of the Borough, and on the ability of the Borough road network to continue to function effectively. Therefore, this Council considers that planning permission should not be granted until: (a) a full traffic impact assessment in relation to the Bexley road network, with reliable assumptions and traffic figures, has been published; and (b) measures have been agreed and funded to control and mitigate increased traffic flows on residential roads."

This motion was carried unanimously, with full support from both political parties.

I do not believe things have changed since then. Having attended the Public Enquiry on several days, and given evidence myself, I believe the economic case in favour of the bridge became weaker as the evidence was examined, and the concerns about the environmental impact remain as strong as ever. Transport for London have not been able to produce reliable traffic figures on which the enquiry has been able to agree. I believe that my ward in particular, which contains Danson Road, would be particularly badly affected by rat-running traffic. Danson Road is not only a residential road, but is adjacent to Bexley's principal public park and one of our finest listed buildings.

Please do not let the bridge go ahead.

Yours sincerely

JOHN WATERS
Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing