

**Planning and Borough Development**

Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street, LONDON, W8 7NX

**Executive Director Planning and Borough Development**

Mr Peter Lerner

Shibani Bose

Scott Wilson

My reference: **Response to the Statement of  
Community Consultation. Thames Tunnel.**  
Please ask for: Patricia Cuervo

22 February 2010

Please ask for: Peter Lerner

Dear Ms Bose,

Please see enclosed the response of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

**The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's response to the Statement of  
Community Consultation.**

The draft Statement of Community Consultation and the draft Community Consultation Strategy set out how Thames Water is planning to consult on the Thames Tunnel Project during phase one (preferred scheme) and phase two (the final route).

We welcome this opportunity to comment on both documents. We have produced and adopted a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) in 2007 setting out how to involve the community during the planning process. This statement should be taken into account. The Council encourages those submitting proposals for large or sensitive schemes such as the Thames Tunnel to undertake consultation with the local community before submitting a planning application. We suggest that this may take the form of an exhibition explaining aspects of the scheme which is open for a few days at an accessible public venue in the vicinity of the works. This should be manned by suitably experienced staff. Adequate publicity should also be given to all those residents and business that may be directly affected by the proposed works.

We are aware that this project is engineering led and driven by legal and technical requirements to pick up sewer overflows in set locations which mean that the selection of the route and the sites is constrained. However, we require that all the comments from the public must be considered on their merits and addressed in an efficient and professional manner.

We note that the consultation on phase one will be on the conclusions of the preferred scheme with the preferred sites and a route and consultation on phase two will be on the work carried out to finalise the selected sites and environmental information concerning

**Direct Line:** 020 7361 2605

**Fax:** 020 7361 3463

**Email:** [patricia.cuervo@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:patricia.cuervo@rbkc.gov.uk)

**Web:** [www.rbkc.gov.uk](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk)

the project. However, we believe that environmental information (i.e. the preliminary Environmental Impact Assessment) should be accompanying consultation in phase one too. This would reinforce the choice of the preferred sites, the alternatives relative to the tunnel option and their possible impacts, making the consultation process more transparent.

In terms of the consultees, we would like all the residents and groups in our LDF database to have the opportunity to decide if they would like to be consulted in regard to this project.

Activities to publicise the different consultations should start well in advance to the consultation itself to raise awareness of the project and to keep the public informed. We have received a request from one of our residents of freedom of information act and we therefore believe that it is paramount that the public does not feel that information is being kept away from them. This statement does not give a clear indication of how long in advance the consultation would be publicised or how long the consultation would last. We would like further clarification on both issues. If consultation takes place over the summer or winter holidays, this should be taken into account and the duration of the consultation should be increased to allow all those interested to make representations.

Finally, the public must also be consulted upon once the application is submitted. This consultation must take into consideration the requirements set out in the SCI for consultation of major planning applications.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Lerner  
Executive Director