

MAYOR OF LONDON



Angie Bray MP
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Date: 30th May 2014

Dear Angie

Joint working to improve air quality at Horn Lane

As you have consistently stressed since your election in 2010, air quality at Horn Lane has been a significant issue affecting the health and quality of life of your constituents for a number of years. Whilst the levels of PM₁₀ have fallen at the site since 2005, air quality in the local area is not yet at an acceptable standard and, as you have championed, further progress must be made locally.

I am very grateful for all the work that you have done to ensure that this issue is addressed, including the two Westminster Hall debates that you have held in Parliament. Here at City Hall we are keen to continue working with you to deliver further improvements in air quality at Horn Lane. We have designed the London Plan so it facilitates the best environmental standards and gives appropriate flexibility to local authorities to take into account the concerns of local residents and tackle sites of concern such as Horn Lane.

In terms of further action, I have recently written to the Chief Executive of the Environment Agency to ensure that they are doing all they can to improve air quality at this site. Subsequently the Environment Agency has varied the environmental permit provided to Gowing & Pursey, one of the site operators at Horn Lane. This variation has further reduced the amount of waste the site can accept each year down to just 17,000 tonnes per annum and introduced a maximum amount of waste on site at any one time to just 75 tonnes. This is a significant step in the right direction and I welcome the Agency's decision.

However, it is time to consider the long-term future of Horn Lane. I understand that Gowing & Pursey is now in the process of moving premises. This provides a unique opportunity to consider whether the current designated use of this land remains appropriate in the context of the new Crossrail station and other industrial land in the vicinity of the site at Park Royal. I would welcome your views on this.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E Lister'.

Sir Edward Lister
Chief of Staff and Deputy Mayor for Planning and Policy

cc. Matthew Pencharz, Senior Adviser, Environment and Energy