

Acton Storm Tanks

Thames Tunnel Consultation on 11 October 2010

View from Greenend Road



Following the consultation meeting today at Linden House on Upper Mall, Hammersmith W6 9TA, I would like to express the view as a resident who lives on the edge of the Acton Storm Tanks site.

I personally believe that the Thames Tunnel is a very good idea as a whole but I am not convinced the best location of the interceptor of the CSO is Acton due to the length of the tunnel required and the proximity to residential properties.

Surely the most economical location would be Site 1 with the least amount of disturbance to the residential areas during the long construction period and after completion, although I am not familiar with the direct implications of that location. I will therefore refer only to the location in Acton.

It was explained to me today, at the meeting, that when the CSO interceptor will be built, the actual Acton Storm Tanks would become redundant, therefore removal would become a highly possible option. The new plant will replace the need for the Storm Tanks, therefore the location will have little to do with the continuation of the Tanks as they are now.

Perhaps this point will need further clarification.

Although the proposed location belongs to Thames Water, it should not encourage the owner to impose on the residents a visually most unappealing site, with which at the moment the residents of Greenend Road and of Warple Way have to put up with. This should be an opportunity for improvement and the entirety of the site should be reviewed, not just a corner.

When these tanks were built, the location was at the outskirts of the town and served the purpose of sewage treatment tanks. The function changed to Storm Tanks a few years ago and with a continuously developing residential area around them, the tanks became enclosed, insular, out of date and context.

The appearance is unappealing, aggressive and unsustainable. The concrete fencing with barbed wire gives a chilling feeling. The disused rail track is mostly no-man's land with half taken by the developers of the new development on Warple Way with the intention of using it as a car park, which is an improvement from the other half of a wild strip of land with overgrown vegetation used for occasional fly tipping and invariably by foxes.

The double concrete enclosure surrounding the tanks should be reviewed and updated by a more sympathetic fence at least. The site as it is requires some tidying up and rationalizing of the resources.

If the Acton Storm Tanks will be made completely redundant by the new CSO drop shaft, interceptor tower and the ventilation column, then the site should be re-valued by the Council and developed as a park or any form of public amenity in order to connect the two sides of Acton otherwise divided by the semi-dilapidated industrial basins.

Conclusion:

- The CSO should be located closer to the river;
- If the CSO will be sited as suggested, the Acton Storm Tanks will be made redundant by the new CSO. Is there a connection at all between the tanks and the CSO? It was explained to me that eventually the tanks would not be required. This point will need to be justified to the Environmental department at Ealing Council as well as the Planning Department through a local consultation.
- Total removal of the tanks would create space, which could become parkland comprising sports facilities with swimming pools or a wetland similar to the one created in Barnes. This could be the subject of a local competition with multiple benefits. If the tanks would be removed, the site could be rationalised and a designated area could be formed specifically for the plant, leaving the rest of the site to serve a new, more sustainable purpose.
- Replacement or removal of the concrete fencing structures regardless of the final outcome.
- The proposal requires further detailed investigation and a more pro-active and sensitive approach should be used for the second phase of the consultation.

These are my conclusions so far and I believe more views will be expressed by other residents separately.

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