

XR Greenwich (xrgreenwich@gmail.com),

Greenwich.

14 May 2020

Dear councillor Scott-McDonald,

Thank you for attending our “climate breakdown shakedown” session on Greenwich council’s decarbonisation strategy. We write on behalf of the large number of XR Greenwich supporters who attended.

We are following up on the commitment you gave to us, to take back to your colleagues the suggestion that Greenwich council publicly and officially oppose the Silvertown tunnel project, in line with the public, official stances of Newham, Waltham Forest, Hackney and Lewisham councils. We expect that, when you do so, the item will be placed on the agenda of a forthcoming council meeting.

It was put to you in discussion:

- that in the light of the coronavirus pandemic and the problems created for the transport system and TfL, the council should reconsider its stance;
- that the Silvertown tunnel project is even more unsustainable now, given the coronavirus pandemic, than it was before;
- that the Labour group of councillors asked the London Mayor to reconsider the project, but this was not enough – a public, official decision by the whole council, joining with other councils to urge the cancellation of the project, is needed;
- that, while it will be more costly to cancel the tunnel project now that the PFI contract has been signed, it would be more costly still – not only to TfL’s budget, but in terms of air pollution and its health effects, and, above all, in terms of the climate emergency – to go ahead with it.

We look forward to hearing from you on this.

Love and Rage,

Extinction Rebellion Greenwich