

ACTION MESOTHELIOMA DAY FRIDAY 2ND JULY 2021

Asbestos – Still a Killer



Inside

European Parliament report on asbestos	2
Action Mesothelioma Day	3
Genfell I Landlords ignore overwork reports	3
Asbestos: The Canadian Experience	4
Remembering Ian 'Mac' McDeson	5
Stop legalising unauthorised developments	6
Protecting the Public from Disaster	7
East London say 'Scrap the Silvertown' Tunnel	8

European Federation

AFFILIATE AND HELP KEEP US GOING

We are asking you to affiliate to the London Hazards Centre so that we can continue the work we were set up to do in 1985 – provide advice, information and training to make London a safer place in which to live and work.

Arguably the work of the London Hazards Centre is more important than ever as a result of cuts to the HSE budget and scrapping of key pieces of health and safety legislation.

The London Hazards Centre is also a campaigning organisation that takes a lead on issues like safety reps rights, as well as working closely with trade unions and other organisations, for example, to fight against blacklisting.

We need your support. We are asking individuals, trade union branches and regions, along with community organisations – to affiliate to us. The annual affiliation fees set out below remain the lifeblood of the London Hazards Centre.

Affiliation rates	
Community groups, tenants and residents associations	£20
Trades Councils, law centres and advice/resource centres,	£30
Tenants federations	
Trade union branches (up to 300 members)	£40
Trade union branches (more than 300 members)	£75
Regional trade union or voluntary organisations	£120
National trade union or voluntary organisations	£240
Subscription rates	
Unwaged individuals	£10
Employed individuals	£20
Commercial organisations	£300
Address to affiliate: London Hazards Centre, 225 - 229 Seven Sisters Road, Finsbury Park, London, N4 2DA. Telephone: 0207 527 5107. Website: www.lhc.org.uk	
Registered Charity No: 293677 Registered Company No: 01981088	

Why not volunteer?

The London Hazards Centre, is looking for volunteers to help run and organise some of our activities. Perhaps you have skills and knowledge that could help organise events, produce promotional material, train others or assist in our campaigning work?

If you are interested in volunteering at the London Hazards Centre why not call 0207 527 5107 or email mail@lhc.org.uk

We'd like to hear from you.

European Parliament report on asbestos

Another step in the European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW) campaign on asbestos.

The general ban on the use of asbestos or products containing asbestos has been in force in Europe since 2005. Nevertheless, asbestos is still present in large parts of the building stock and in many elements of the infrastructure. It is estimated that between 30 and 60,000 people currently die each year in Europe as a result of asbestos-related diseases.

The European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW) has placed the issue at the centre of its health and safety activities since 2011 and has presented a comprehensive plan on how to deal with the problem.

At the heart of this programme is the idea of a European and national asbestos removal programme, as well as better training for workers who work with asbestos, a lowering of the occupational exposure limit, recognition of all asbestos-related diseases or better support for victims. Now the Employment Committee of the European Parliament is again discussing a report on asbestos, after having already adopted one in 2013, which had already included many demands of the EFBWW campaign.

The draft report focuses on a proposal to revise the Directive on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to asbestos

(2009/148/EC), which was adopted in 1983 and has been revised several times since. Among other things, it calls for a lowering of the European occupational exposure limit from the current 100,000 to 1,000 fibres per m³. It also calls for a more concrete formulation of the qualification content.

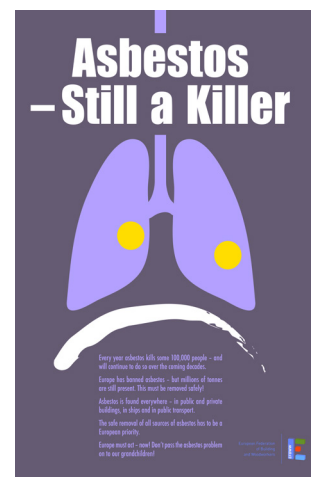
However, it is also significant that the Employment Committee in Parliament has chosen a broad approach. This means that not only the above-mentioned Occupational Health and Safety Directive is dealt with in the report, but also other policy areas that have something to do with the asbestos problem. In the explanatory notes, under 1. it is pointed out that: "that the safe removal of asbestos is directly linked to the following current and future Union policy initiatives: the new Union framework for health and safety, the Green Deal with the Renovation Wave, 'Next Generation EU' and the Multiannual Financial Framework, the European Plan to Combat Cancer, the EU Waste Strategy and the Circular Economy Package". The report then makes concrete proposals on, among other things, the European plan to fight cancer in society; it deals with the "renovation wave" for energy renovation of buildings; makes concrete proposals on (asbestos-related) occupational diseases and on general facilitation in the procedures for recognising occupational diseases and on a necessary registration of asbestos sources in buildings and infrastructure.

In its Climate Target Plan 2030, the Commission proposed to cut net greenhouse gas emissions in the EU by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990. To achieve this, the EU should reduce buildings' greenhouse gas emissions by 60%. The IEA's recent sustainable recovery report found that, per euro invested, building renovation is our

biggest job creator with 12 to 18 local jobs created for every million invested. The Commission estimates there is potential for an additional 160 000 green jobs in the construction sector in the EU by 2030. If Member States were to implement measures to improve insulation, technical building systems and appliances, new employment opportunities would immediately present themselves.

The draft presented by Danish MEP Nikolaj Villumsen (GUE/NGL) is currently being discussed in the Employment Committee. 208 amendments have been received. It can be said that some of the amendments under negotiation could weaken the proposals of the report here and there, while others propose useful concretisations. As in 2013, a very broad majority is expected to vote in favour of the report. The reaction of the European Commission will be interesting. In her candidacy speech before the EP, Ms von der Leyen had clearly declared her support for strengthening the political and legislative processes at EU level; she also announced that the Commission would take over legislative proposals from the Parliament. The report on asbestos is likely to be one of the first litmus tests in this respect.

Magdalena Sikorowska, Thilo Janssen, Rolf Gehring,
all EFBWW, Brussels



Action Mesothelioma Day Friday 2nd July 2021



Action Mesothelioma Day is held annually on the first Friday in July to remember the people who have died as a result of being exposed to asbestos.

Mesothelioma is an aggressive cancer caused by asbestos. HSE statistics show that around 2,500 having been dying from the deadly disease each year. The most recent statistics show 2,446 died from Mesothelioma in 2019. And a similar number are being diagnosed as suffering from Mesothelioma

every year. There is no cure for this deadly disease.

Predictions that Mesothelioma is a thing of the past because due to the banning of asbestos in 1999 is plainly ridiculous. Millions of tons of it are still present in over half a million commercial properties and every day workers and people using these buildings are put at risk of breathing in the deadly fibre. People continue to die. Families of the victims' lives are changed forever when they lose a loved one to Mesothelioma.

Mesothelioma is one of the few work-related diseases where deaths can be counted directly. It can take anything between 10 – 40 years from exposure to diagnosis. It accumulates in the body over time and the effects are often only seen later in life.

Shouldn't we expect more inspections and prosecutions of owners of buildings and contactors working in asbestos-ridden buildings? Sadly no. Prosecutions brought by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) have steadily dropped since the Tories took office and directly correlate to the massive HSE budget cuts first implemented by the Conservative-Liberal Democrat Coalition Government in 2010. Cuts that have also have affected the ability to tackle Coronavirus. As TUC General Secretary Frances O'Grady said "The numbers of workplace inspections have fallen off a cliff over the past decade. Huge cuts to the HSE and to local authorities undermine vital safety protections at work – and have left us under-prepared and

vulnerable to the pandemic."

Trade Unions, anti-asbestos campaigners, and asbestos victims support groups have been demanding the removal of all asbestos from schools and public buildings. Only by safely removing and disposing of all asbestos will we begin to save thousands of people dying of Mesothelioma.

Action Mesothelioma Day is an opportunity to bring to the attention of the general public the dangers to health presented by asbestos still present in buildings. Friday 2nd July 2021 is the day when you can show solidarity with others fighting for justice.

If you are not in a trade union follow this link to find the right union for you tuc.org.uk/join-a-union You can find out more information on how you can get involved in joining with others to fight for justice at: <https://actionmeso.org> Go to this NEU website link to find out about the scandal of asbestos in our schools: <https://neu.org.uk/advice/facts-about-asbestos-schools>

Grenfell landlords 'ignored overwork reports'

GRENFELL

As the Public inquiry into June 2017 Grenfell disaster progresses, the woeful litany of failures by the Kensington & Chelsea Tenant Management Organisation (TMO) gets longer. Recently the Inquiry into the cause of the fire in which 72 people lost their lives heard how caretakers on the Lancaster West Estate often did not have enough time to carry out safety checks. Grenfell Tower's landlords ignored workload complaints from caretakers carrying out health and safety inspections on their buildings, the Inquiry heard on the 17 June 2021. Paul Steadman, Estate Services

Assistant (ESA) for Lancaster West Estate at the time of the Grenfell Tower fire, stated that the now defunct Kensington & Chelsea Tenant Management Organisation (TMO) only allowed him and his colleagues to spend 30-60 minutes carrying out inspections.

Extracts from his written statement were read out as he faced questions into the June 2017 blaze in west London. In a statement to the police in July 2018 Mr Steadman said "I feel that some of the caretakers have to fit in too much work for their day – one caretaker has 40 blocks." Counsel to the Inquiry

Andrew Kinnier QC asked Mr Steadman; "Did they do much about the concerns that you raised?" "No" Mr Steadman replied, adding that it was brought up in caretakers' meetings. He said in a statement: "We've been complaining to the TMO for the last four or five years that we have not got enough time or enough people, but they just don't listen."

In reference to the 30 – 60 minutes allowed for inspections, Mr Steadman told the Inquiry that "the reason why it's set is because they never replaced the caretakers that retired or left over the 3 years, so over the years the caretakers have got less and less, so the workload has got more and more, so you have to get through your blocks each day." When asked whether 30 – 60 minutes was sufficient time to carry out the checks to the standard that was required Mr Steadman said "On some blocks, yes, some smaller blocks."

Mr Steadman went on to explain that on larger blocks it was not enough time to carry out inspections. Counsel to the Inquiry asked Mr Steadman "did you ever raise concerns with anyone that you had insufficient time to complete the necessary checks in relation to Grenfell?" "All the time"

Mr Steadman replied. *Source: Morning Star*

Asbestos: The Canadian Experience



The Canadian experience with asbestos is not substantially different than that globally, but just as tragic. As a former asbestos worker, I am just hopeful we round the corner sooner than later.

Asbestos use in Canada mirrors other countries. Similar mining practices, markets, manufacturers, distributors, installers, and same end users. The real tragedy is we have the same victims. Working people and end users are dying today in record numbers because of past and present exposure to asbestos.

The Battle

The hazards of asbestos were actively known in the mining, manufacturing and distribution community in the 1940's. Asbestosis and lung complications were found by internal industry epidemiologists. Similar to "black lung" and coal mining, those mining and using asbestos were dying from asbestosis and increased lung cancer risk was indicated. That information was not shared nor part of the "Magic Mineral Marketing" campaign that sold asbestos world-wide. Twenty-five years later epidemiologists researching lung cancer finally associated lung disease and asbestos exposure. Not just

Asbestosis, but also a virtually unknown cancer, Mesothelioma. Those studies were the first seen in the labour movement in the 1970s. While that period marked the peak of asbestos usage for all products and applications, neither governments nor workplace insurance programs (workers compensation boards - WCBs - in Canada) were interested in curtailing the use of asbestos, despite obvious deadly consequences.

The Tragedy

As increased death and disability rates started to affect more construction workers, significant exposure illnesses amongst unionized asbestos workers drove the labour movement to listen to the studies and start demanding workplace changes.

As part of that effort, it was always frustrating and some days absolutely depressing to watch co-workers leave their job, never to return, and to later hear of their early passing due to asbestos-related illness. But the more funeral services we attended, the louder our voices for change got.

Finally, in the 1980s governments acknowledged the need for workplace controls, introducing regulations on airborne particles, assessing materials for asbestos content, eight-hour exposure limits and reclassification from "nuisance dust" to a known carcinogen.

Canadian jurisdictions developed common standards for containment and abatement of asbestos containing material (ACM). WCBs also began to pay claims associated with workplace exposure.

Many of today's WCBs have "presumptions" for asbestos disease causes and if workers are diagnosed with mesothelioma, asbestosis, bronchogenic carcinoma, bilateral plural plaques or similar illness, their benefit claims are accepted.

Canada only stopped mining

asbestos in 2012, closing the largest asbestos mine in the world, in the town fittingly called Asbestos, Quebec, and this carcinogen was completely banned in 2018.

Unfortunately, a successful lobby from the Canadian mining sector had for decades influenced politicians to believe that the economic benefits of asbestos outweighed the disastrous impact of exposure on miners, workers and consumers around the world.

Tomorrow's Challenge

Though many asbestos regulations have had an impact on workplace exposure to asbestos and the need to document inventories of ACM, the battle is not over. The control of asbestos disease is a 'cradle to grave' matter. In Canada, we still significantly struggle with safe demolition, transportation, and disposal of asbestos.

Today in British Columbia,

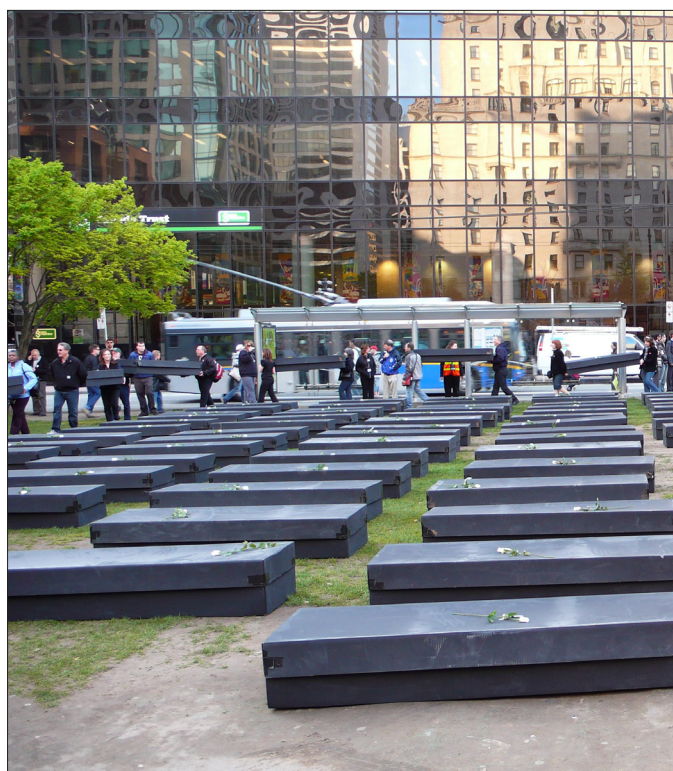
unscrupulous contractors and individuals dump asbestos and ACMs removed from homes and buildings in schoolyards, shopping malls, laneways, and vacant lots in the dead of night on a far too frequent basis.

Not only do some workers become unnecessarily exposed, but now we have added children and the general public. Yet the deadly results of current exposures won't be realized for three decades from now!

Asbestos is still the leading cause of workplace death in Canada. If we don't stop this nonsense today, it will remain an unnecessary tragedy for decades to come.

Lee Loftus is the retired Business Manager of the British Columbia Insulators Union and Vice-Chair of WorkSafe British Columbia, the province's Workers Compensation Board. He suffers from asbestos exposure.

By Lee Loftus



Remembering Ian 'Mac' McDeson



In his autobiography "Journeyman", Ewan MacColl described Mac as "a bear of a man with a gravel voice".

Mac joined the Communist Party when he was a teenager, not a protest, but as a matter of common sense. Like MacColl, Mac championed the interests of the international working class throughout his life. Whether it was global issues like Vietnam, Apartheid, Nuclear Disarmament, the displacement

of the Palestinians or the injustices suffered by the Guildford 4 and the Birmingham 6, he stood up to be counted.

Mac was proud to be a C&G bricklayer, like his father. He was Camden DLO convenor in 1972, and organised one of the first DLO strikes in support of the national building workers strike that won significant improvements. Again, like MacColl, he used his congenial nature and musical ability politically, particularly with his

"staunch republican" friend and fellow building trade activist Andy Higgins. They both served on the unofficial Joint Sites Committee that organised unofficial solidarity across construction sites when official leaders failed to defend victimised activists like the convicted Shrewsbury pickets.

Mac was given The Robert Trussell Award in 2007 with this citation "In recognition of his membership of the Communist Party, 50 years of service to

UCATT and support in the Building Workers Strike of 1972, the Shrewsbury Building Workers Campaign and as a founding member of the Construction Safety Campaign."

He was also for many years a mainstay of the London Hazards Centre. He was a fearless representative of his class with too few peers today.

Steve Ballard

Ian McDeson died on the 23 April 2021.

NOCADO



Stop legalising unauthorised developments

The Certificate of Lawful Existing Use or Development (CLEUDS) must be reformed to ensure proper community accountability. Here's why.

Early this week the Ocado Group and M&S joint venture, Ocado Retail Ltd, failed to persuade the High Court to permit its development of a 24/7 online grocery distribution centre immediately abutting Yerbury Primary School in Tufnell Park, N19. The legal win was the culmination of 18 months of determined opposition by our campaign group NOcado, a battle many told us was hopeless against a powerful and well-resourced corporate Goliath.

So how did this battle get to the High Court and what does it tell us about the strengths and weaknesses of the planning system and the way corporate players can abuse it? In April 2019 Islington Council granted landlord Telereal Trillium a lawful development certificate after it argued that the warehouse units had been used for "storage and distribution" since 1992 providing "evidence" and witness statements to that effect. This decision - effectively confirming that the units had a lawful B8 use - apparently gave Ocado a green light to build their depot under "permitted development" legislation with no conditions and no

community engagement required.

It was only in late 2019 that the local community and the school learnt of the plans when Ocado applied for planning permission for some additional developments on the site including operating three diesel refuelling pumps and a diesel tank (and even siting a smoking shelter next to the nursery playground). It was then the full nature of the development - with Ocado as the partner - became clear and a huge backlash began. At heart, this was about vulnerable young children from 3-11 being exposed to lifelong damage by a polluting and noisy depot literally metres away.

Ocado recognising that the attempt to develop the scheme under the radar had failed, agreed to attend a community meeting in January 2020. But by this stage Ocado's blatant lack of transparency had blown away any trust that the community might have had in this supposedly consumer-friendly brand. Through January and February 2020 members of NOcado thoroughly researched the history of the site and in April, after seeking legal advice, submitted a 154-page pack of evidence refuting Telereal Trillium's version of events on the site. Islington Council took a firm stance once the applicant's misleading approach was exposed (and has remained a consistent advocate for the community ever since). It

revoked Ocado's certificate in October 2020 after Telereal Trillium was found to have used statements in their application that were "false" as well as "material information being withheld".

Unabashed, Ocado continued building and applied for a judicial review to overturn the decision to revoke the lawful development certificate. However, to provide a smokescreen for using a legal sledgehammer against the concerns of the community, they launched a sham consultation in April 2021 that was high on greenwash and low on honest and comprehensive disclosure (including promising their own impact statements which are yet to materialise). This fitted a consistent pattern of misleading behaviour throughout this 18-month battle: Ocado withheld revealing themselves as the users of the site until the last possible moment (fearing popular opposition); they announced themselves as socially responsible neighbours, while making it clear the community had no recourse against their right to exploit the site as they chose. Underlying this behaviour is a cold determination to exploit CLEUDs (Certificate of Lawful Existing Use or Development) forcing an unwanted development on a community and its children.

The result of this landmark Judicial Review carries significant implications for the use and misuse of CLEUDS. Legislative reform is vital to ensure proper community transparency and accountability and to prevent corporations like Ocado abusing the system. Our campaign shows that the current CLEUD framework is flawed as it puts the developer in the driving seat and provides plenty of opportunity for misleading submissions and does not provide for full, effective and transparent community engagement.

The Judge's ruling clearly raises the bar for developers but will be insufficient to prevent misuse. In this case a determined community assisted the Council in exposing an abuse of the system and the threat to vulnerable young children. However, this development almost went through under the radar and we were lucky that the truth came out. Given the high profile of this case, the group has secured backing to fund a legacy programme to research and develop vital changes to this area of planning so this cannot happen to vulnerable communities anywhere else.

Natasha Cox and Bill Eyres are campaigners from NOcado. This article previously appeared in *The Planner* magazine

PROTECTING THE PUBLIC FROM DISASTER

My name is Tim Shipley, I'm an electrician and I started this Facebook page about 4-months ago, through frustration at my electrical trade, specifically the electricians, being de-skilled by the use of unskilled workers, that is, by replacing electricians in the construction industry throughout the UK with unqualified people with no experience in electrical work.

This issue could not be more dangerous, where the health and safety of workers and the public are concerned. The frustration was caused by the country's two largest electrical contractors - N.G.Bailey and Balfour Beatty - out of the blue introducing a new grade of electrical worker that they call Electrical Support Operative (ESO). It sounds better than an electrician or sparky doesn't it? Well, it turns out that this ESO grade would be someone who had completed a 6 - 8-week course and could then perform 75% of the electrical duties of a City & Guilds 3 to 5-year apprentice trained Electrician.

It's not too bad though, as they have only started this crazy experiment on the two new Hinkley Point 'C' Nuclear Reactors, so what could possibly go wrong there then? If we're going to be mad, let's be completely insane! A Chernobyl (1986), a Windscale (1957) - they changed its name to Sellafield in the 80s because of its bad reputation. Or what about the recent Fukushima disaster, which is still pumping millions of gallons of radioactive water into our oceans. It won't happen to us in the UK, we have the highest of standards! What a load of rubbish! Electrical system failures cause fires and explosions for many reasons



and letting unskilled workers loose on them is like asking your local butcher to remove a brain tumour instead of using a highly qualified Neurosurgeon.

N.G. Bailey and Balfour Beatty have been trying to de-skill electricians for decades, putting profit before safety. They tried it on against us in the Besna dispute of 2011/12, which was basically about de-skilling electricians. We had to form the rank and file electricians' group to fight-off this attack, as our union was slow to take up any kind of resistance. Just like the Blacklist Support Group was formed to expose the blacklisting of construction workers and the 'Spycops' scandal involving undercover police spying on trade unions and political groups.

The 'No to ESO Group' was formed for exactly the same reason, out of necessity, and

the rank-and-file sparks who are the blood running through the veins of all of these groups, took up the mantle. Through constant protests and demonstrations by concerned electricians at various N.G. Bailey and Balfour Beatty sites across the UK, we have forced these two infamous blacklisting companies to remove any ESO grade off-of the Hinkley Point 'C' Nuclear Reactor Site, and are currently in talks with them about employing electricians to do the electrical work. Just like scaffolders do all the scaffolding work - you don't touch scaffolding unless you are a qualified scaffolder - because it is highly dangerous. It's the same with electricity, leave it to the electricians, as it is highly dangerous and has the potential to kill millions of people, with the odd radiation leak or, reactor explosion here and there!

The people who live in the blast zone of Hinkley Point 'C' in places like Somerset and Bristol can rest assured that there are concerned people out there, like us, the rank and file electricians, fighting to make sure these huge companies don't get away with building Nuclear reactors on their doorsteps using unqualified, cheap labour to install all the electrical systems instead of fully qualified electricians.

I am 60 years old in July, I have been an electrician since my apprenticeship started age 16 in 1977. I am a 2391 electrical testing and inspection qualified electrician and I have been employed on hazardous area projects, such as gas storage facilities as a Compex qualified inspector. Please take my word and the word of many thousands of electricians in the UK that this de-skilling obsession of these two huge companies is immoral and must be stopped. Take the word of rank and file electricians, not these criminal companies who were fined millions in the High Court for blacklisting. We want to protect our trade but, ultimately, we have a duty of care to protect the general public of the UK. The fight against de-skilling is continuing and as recent as the 18 June, thirty electricians were sacked for protesting on an Amazon construction site over labourers doing all of the work of electricians. There will be ongoing protests by the rank and file at this new Amazon site in the North East. Please feel free to join our group on Facebook. You are all welcome.

Here's the link to our Facebook group.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/230217498810296/>

Tim Shipley

East London communities say Scrap the Silvertown Tunnel

Opposition to the £2.2 billion Silvertown Tunnel project is growing in working class communities in east London.

Newham residents fear that the tunnel – planned to cross the Thames a few metres east of the Blackwall tunnel, and empty on to the same roads – will worsen the borough's air pollution. School pupils in both Newham and Greenwich will have to breathe in more toxic air if the tunnel is built.

A meeting in June of Newham teachers and parents, organised by the NEU teachers' union, launched an open letter to Sadiq Khan, London Mayor, calling for the project to be paused while a full health impact assessment is conducted. The letter points out that particulate matter (PM2.5) in the borough is already 35% over World Health Organisation guidelines, and one in seven of Newham's population are exposed to levels of nitrogen oxide (NO2) above the UK recommended limit. Rosamund Kissi-Debrah, whose daughter Ella died aged nine – became the first person to have air pollution cited as the cause of death was among the speakers urging that the tunnel be scrapped.

The campaign against the tunnel project has wide labour movement support: the Greenwich, Newham and Waltham Forest trades councils, and local branches of Unite and the TSSA, have urged Khan to cancel it. So have the Socialist Health Association London branch, and nine Constituency Labour Parties and 22 Labour branches across the capital. A demonstration in June at

Canning Town, where the tunnel would empty out on the north side of the river, brought together trade unionists, Labour and Green party members, Extinction Rebellion (with a samba band), and hundreds of local residents. Zain Mir of West Ham Constituency Labour Party summed up the mood at a rally at the end, saying: "Projects like the Silvertown Tunnel are being foisted on areas with large BAME communities. The people of Newham will not be treated like guinea pigs!" Newham Councillor Suga Thekkeppurayil spoke about refugees, many from places already impacted by climate change, coming to boroughs like Newham:

"They have gone through misery before they came here. We must not make their lives more miserable by forcing them to breathe toxic air."

Destiny Boka Batesa of Choked Up, a group of school students campaigning to tackle air pollution, said:

"This tunnel is an act of harm against local residents. You'd never see a project like this in Kensington and Chelsea."

The Greater London Authority claims the tunnel is needed because of congestion at the Blackwall tunnel. Opponents of the project say that its real purpose is to ease the way for heavy goods traffic – a dedicated HGV lane is part of the plans – and that the real beneficiaries are haulage companies and better-off commuters. What local people need is better, cheaper public transport, and cycling and walking infrastructure.


The Stop the Silvertown Tunnel coalition points to the stacks of transport research showing that more roads always produce more traffic, regardless of the tolls that the GLA says it would use to control traffic (and which would penalise lower-income local drivers). The coalition warns that, on top of the short-term hazard of air pollution, road-building projects feed in to the longer-term global nightmare of climate change. Infrastructure projects of this kind are incompatible with the greenhouse gas emission reduction targets that London has set – which themselves lag behind the targets worked out by climate scientists at the Tyndall centre, the UK's leading climate science research hub. To cut emissions sharply during the 2020s, as the science says we must, transport policies need to be geared to reducing the number of cars and trucks on the roads. Tunnels do not help – but better train links and bike lanes might do.

In April a group of more than 60 climate scientists, transport researchers and other academics sent an open letter to the

Mayor, and transport secretary Grant Shapps, calling for the tunnel to be scrapped. They pointed out that – with the COP26 climate talks coming up in Glasgow in November – the government had reviewed the licence of a coal mine project in Cumbria. The Silvertown tunnel "risks, like the Cumbrian coal mine, undermining the UK's efforts to address climate change".


- Stop the Silvertown Tunnel coalition web site <https://stopsilvertowntn.com/>
 - Email stopsilvertowntn@gmail.com
 - Stop the Silvertown Tunnel on twitter <https://twitter.com/SilvertownTn>
 - Newham teachers' and parents' letter https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdu58uzrjznBNGBAtn-zl9r-WdkGYeVsyD1_upKfEt7eDzG-WLg/viewform
 - The Stop Digging report (Transport Action network), explaining the case against the tunnel in detail <https://transport-actionnetwork.org.uk/new-report-urges-silvertown-tunnel-re-think/>
- Simon Pirani**

STOP THE TUNNEL



**LET US BREATHE.
CANCEL SILVERTOWN TUNNEL.**

Protest & March
Saturday 5th June, 2pm!
Assemble from 1:30 @ Terry
Spinks Place (Canning Town)



STOP THE SILVERTOWN TUNNEL COALITION
<https://fb.me/e/EnNeJuGw>