Dear Ms.

Thank you for your e-mail regarding the Crossrail Schedule 7 Request for Approval for Ealing Broadway station which is due to be considered by the council's Planning Committee on 13 August. We have been engaged with local groups on discussions about the plans for the station for the past two years and we have received many comments on our proposals over the past few months. Crossrail was, therefore, surprised to find out this week that Save Ealing’s Centre had apparently informed local groups that the matter would not be considered by the council until a later date. This statement was not shared with nor agreed by Crossrail at any time and is contrary to the presentations made by Crossrail to local groups in both April and June.

Crossrail has consulted with the Council who advise that if people would like to comment then comments should be submitted to the planning portal ASAP. The Council Planning Team are willing to accept all comments and representations up to the date of the committee. That gives people a further week to get comments in, although ideally the Council say that comments should be submitted by close of play Monday (11th) to allow officers to collate and report on them. This is on top of a 5 week consultation programme (for the new canopy and facade design), plus 9 months of opportunity for comments since the first plans emerged (the layout of the station has not changed). Crossrail will continue to work closely with, and support, the Council on its plans for the design of the forecourt which will develop over the next few months.

The Planning Committee on 13 August will be considering the design concept for the station which, if approved, will allow Crossrail to move on to the next stage of design development. The detailed design work will choose the precise specification for items such as the selected materials, the lighting, doorways, and the colours for the station. This work has not yet started and needs to commence very rapidly. Crossrail is wholly committed to engaging with the community to share these detailed designs as they emerge and address comments. It is also understood that the Council is currently proposing a condition on the consent that requires further approval of samples of the materials to be used for all the external surfaces of the station including the louvres and brickwork, on submission of these details the Council may carry out a further community consultation round. Crossrail and the Council share Save Ealing’s Centre’s view that local input to the development of the look and feel of the station is critical to getting the best outcome for Ealing. The design of the station has been undertaken very much with the forecourt, roads and approaches in mind such that it allows full flexibility for the urban design to be developed. A process that has been adopted successfully for all key Crossrail stations.

The Council is planning an exhibition in early September, which will show their developing designs for the station forecourt and surroundings. Crossrail will support this exhibition in order to explain the plans for the station and to receive your comments so that they can be addressed within the detailed design process. This will be followed by other potential opportunities for local input to the designs as they develop over future months as described above.

Once again, if you have comments on the proposals which you have not already submitted on the first consultation in December 2013, then I urge you to submit them now to the planning pages of the councils website.

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