



Boris Johnson Esq.
Mayor of London
Greater London Authority
City Hall
London SE1 2AA

13th January 2014

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dear Boris,

Re: the Crossrail project and Ealing Broadway station.

As you know, the Crossrail project is making good progress and is set to transform London. My own constituency, Ealing Central and Acton, is already benefitting from significant inward investment as a consequence and will only attract more investment opportunities as the project nears completion and gets up and running. Crossrail undoubtedly presents a once in a lifetime opportunity for the area which should not be wasted. Yet, while we are all delighted that it survived the 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review in its entirety, there is a strong view held by local residents – which I share – that the plans for Ealing Broadway station are disappointing and a major missed opportunity.

The most striking aspect of the new station design which is causing such disappointment is the planned facade and frontage of the station, which looks drab, purely functional and not at all in keeping with its local surroundings. Given that it sits at the heart of the town centre, I think we had all expected something rather more imposing that makes a real statement and acts as a proper gateway to Central Ealing. I understand that the design for the facade is not yet set in stone and that there is still an opportunity to come up with something more appropriate. I ask you for your support in helping Ealing get a station that lives up to the importance of the location it enjoys. One idea that occurs to me is that we could use this opportunity to invite talented architects to work up designs as part of an architectural competition. Surely, this would be of great benefit to all concerned, especially local residents who would be offered a chance to express their views on the merits or otherwise of the various designs put forward? But above all, it would make this exciting and Ealing would end up with a station that looks the part.

At the moment, there seems a distinct lack of imagination and an absence of a bold vision for what is a key London interchange. We no longer have escalators for the new station (they were in the original plans), nor even any assurance that the design will allow for retrofitting at some stage; there do not seem to be adequate and lasting solutions to the many problems around the station - the bus stops, the future of Haven Green and the fact that there will not be anywhere at the new station to drop people off who are arriving by car, often with heavy luggage for Heathrow; and even now, concerns continue that the station design is based on questionable projections about passenger numbers once Crossrail is running.

Ealing Broadway is an outdated and dangerous station with rising passenger numbers that has been crying out for a new, modern and impressive station for years and years now – these plans fall seriously short and Ealing deserves better.

Is this really the best we can do? I am sure you will agree that Ealing could do far better, particularly given the importance of Ealing Broadway station to the whole of West London. At the very least, what we need is an entrance which makes a real statement as the gateway to Ealing.

Yours, Angie

Happy 2014!

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