

Railway link plan is resurrected

TOBY Harris seeks support for his petition to get Crossrail, the proposed new rail link, to revert to a former plan that includes links to the Brent and Harrow areas (*Speakers' Corner, 'Call to back new Crossrail petition,' November 5*).

That plan involved tunnelling below Kensal Green Cemetery. We may not be able to consult the dead on their right to rest in peace but we are able to consult the relatives of those who regularly visit their deceased.

I should like to see Lord Harris target his petition, with greater sensitivity, for those most directly affected by any inevitable construction work were the plan to undergo resuscitation.

Moreover, if our elected representatives are to have any demonstrable influence at all, I should like to see the nitty gritty issues of dire transportation in the area dealt with first.

Lord Harris recognises problems but seems resigned to let them fester while only taking up glamorous solutions.

Part of the solution to improving pre-existing Tube and rail services would be to stop the nonsense of Bakerloo trains terminating at Queens Park throughout the evening.

The Green Party also believes strongly in restoring the public ethos to our railways. Commuters, sorry customers, despair of in-your-face musak, sorry advertising, on platform indicators at Kensal Green that were once routinely used for up-to-the-minute timetable information.

Lord Harris seems only to listen to the arguments of big business. While explaining that Cross London Rail Links Ltd have rejected his favoured plan on grounds of 'poor value for money,' Lord Harris betrays a lowest common denominator attitude.

Pray tell us, is the £750,000 paid to the Chairman of Silverlink Railways good value for money?

Shahrar Ali
European Candidate for
the London Region
Brent and Harrow Green Party
By email