

Press Release

For immediate use

Heathrow Campaigners vow to give the Dead a voice

11th March 2009:

Candlelit Vigil to be held at Westminster as MPs present a 35,000 signature petition to Save Cherry Lane Cemetery

Campaigners against a 3rd runway at Heathrow will hold a candlelit vigil at Westminster at 6:00pm on Wednesday March 11th. The Vigil, organised by the Save Cherry Lane Cemetery Campaign, will be held shortly before the three Hillingdon MPs present a petition, with a total number of 35,000 signatures, to Parliament (1).

Cherry Lane Cemetery is under threat if a 3rd runway is built as a key approach road to the new runway may go through the cemetery (2). At today's vigil the campaigners will be joined by campaigners from HACAN and from NoTRAG (the No Third Runway Action Group).

Spokeswoman for the cemetery campaign, CLAD (Cherry Lane Against Development), Edna La Mothe said, "The signatures have been collected in just 9 months. It is amazing that so many signatures have been collected in so little time. It shows the strength of feeling that the Dead will speak from beyond the grave and be heard. The majority of us did not have a voice during the 'consultation' period, as the map showing the road through the cemetery was not readily available to all the residents affected by this."

Mrs La Mothe, whose husband is buried in the cemetery, added, "Campaigners believe that loved ones at Cherry Lane Cemetery have been treated with irreverence and mourners with contempt. The vigil is to redress that wrong. We are gathering peacefully to honour those who have gone before us, and to demonstrate that the fire inside us to preserve our cemetery would never be extinguished."

"BAA has said that the road is only one of the options it is looking at and that it will not be built, but they refuse to withdraw the map showing the road through the cemetery. We can have no real reassurance that our loved ones are safe until the plans for a third runway are abandoned."

ENDS

Notes for Editors:

- (1).** The three MPs are John McDonnell - Labour, John Randall - Conservative and Nick Hurd - Conservative. This will be the second batch of signatures to be submitted to Parliament by the MPs. They total 35,000 signatures.
- (2).** The Cemetery lies just north of the M4 on Shepiston Lane.