

## News

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## 400 homes to be built on old gravel pit site

**Jonathan Prynn**  
Consumer Business Editor

A FORMER gravel pit and landfill site in Dagenham is to be transformed with the building of 400 homes thanks to the "Crossrail effect".

The Lymington Fields development is being built near Chadwell Heath station, which is to be a Crossrail stop when the route opens in 2018.

Developers Lovells are building the homes on one of the first public brownfield sites owned by the GLA and released for development by Mayor Boris Johnson.

The site will include 116 homes for affordable rent and 43 for shared ownership, with the first on sale by summer next year. Prices will start at around £250,000 for a three-bed.

Deputy Mayor for housing Richard Blakeway said: "It is a good example of how Crossrail is opening up development sites."



"Smarter design": the Elephant & Castle scheme aims to smooth traffic flows and reduce speeds at an accident hotspot. Work is expected to begin next year

# Elephant & Castle goes green to cut crashes

## 'Racetrack' to be turned into two-way high street

**Matthew Beard**  
Transport Editor

LONDON'S most notorious gyratory system will be transformed into an attractive high street under plans for the future of London's roads, published by the Mayor today.

The roundabout at Elephant & Castle will become a green and more liveable "peninsula" for the area which is already earmarked for 5,000 new homes and 4,000 jobs.

With work beginning next year, the gyratory will be turned into a two-way road which will smooth traffic flows and reduce speeds at an accident hotspot that critics say has become a race track.

Plans for Elephant & Castle unveiled today follow a summit of Boris Johnson's Roads Task Force, which was set up by him and draws on a £4 billion budget for the biggest improvement to the capital's roads in a generation.

A similar approach will be adopted

at the Waterloo "IMAX" roundabout and Vauxhall Cross as one of the gateways to the new Battersea Power Station/Nine Elms development zone.

The roundabout at Waterloo will be redeveloped, creating a better interchange at the station as well as improved facilities for cyclists.

Mr Johnson said: "Smarter design of our roads and public spaces, exemplified by our radical plans for Elephant & Castle, will play a key role in ensuring that London remains the best big city to live, work and invest.

"We've been hard at work putting the bold and imaginative blueprint of the Road's Task Force into practice and we're now seeing the fruits of that labour at key locations across the capital."

Today also marks the completion of major work to transform Euston Circus, one of London's biggest and busiest junctions, a joint project by Transport for London, Camden

council and developer British Land. The overhaul, which will make the junction safer for cyclists and pedestrians, is the first major project in the capital to be delivered using the recommendations set out by the Roads Task Force.

Alongside the transformation of 33 road junctions announced last week as part of the Mayor's cycling programme, there will also be more than £200 million of additional far-reaching improvements at 17 major locations including at Croydon Five Ways; Balham High Road; Brent Cross; Charlie Brown's roundabout; Euston Road; Lombard roundabout; London Road roundabout; Malden Rushett; Mill Hill Circus; Purley Cross gyratory; Barking Riverside; Seven Sisters Road; Stoke Newington Gyratory; Thornton Heath Ponds; Trinity Road; Tulse Hill Gyratory and Victoria Circus.

Funding for these schemes will be covered by the TfL business plan and through third party contributions.

## Writer's date with diarist's descendant

**Benedict Moore-Bridger**

THE life of 16-year-old Londoner Olive Higgins who died 100 years ago became an internet sensation when her diary was discovered during a house clearance and extracts put on Twitter.

Now writer Rob McGibbon, who posted the passages, has tracked down one of her surviving relatives. Olive, the only daughter of hotelier Thomas Higgins, began the diary shortly before January

1914. Eight weeks later she died from a serious illness. Mr McGibbon, pictured, was given the diary in 2001 by an antique shop owner and became "obsessed" by her story after discovering she was buried in Brockley Cemetery near his birthplace. He set up a blog and began posting daily extracts in real

time 100 years on, ending last week when she became too unwell to write. Olive died on February 25, 1914. Now the former journalist is to meet one of her relatives – the son of Olive's brother Frank – who is in his mid-eighties and lives on the South-Coast. Mr McGibbon said: "I feel incredibly connected to Olive's story and her life, by her spirit and humour." He is in talks to write a book on her life.



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