



OLD OAK NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

NOTES OF A JOINT MEETING WITH THE GRAND UNION ALLIANCE HELD ON June 4th 2019 AT THE COLLECTIVE, OLD OAK LANE

(Attendance list held separately for GDPR reasons. Approx 28 members and associate members of the Forum and the Grand Union Alliance attended).

1. Welcome and notes of May 7th meeting

1.1 The Chair Mark Walker advised that a copy of these notes had been circulated and was available on the Forum's website at www.oldoakneighbourhoodforum.org

2. Current action on health and environmental issues arising from HS2 works and construction at Oaklands

2.1. Amanda Souter explained what had been happening to follow up the discussion at the previous meeting. The area currently being affected by HS2 works and the construction of Oaklands was experiencing a whole range of problems including air pollution, noise, severe vibrations and damage to properties, water and sewage issues, rats and vermin, closed bus stops and general deterioration of the environment.

2.3. HS2 had denied the existence of HS2 assurances on any necessary remedial works to the wall and steps beneath Wells House Road and Old Oak Lane, but had now been confronted with the relevant documentation. HS2 were introducing new and different community engagement staff as a result.

2.4 A mother from Wells House Road detailed the recent respiratory problems affecting her son when playing outside in the area. These had involved GP and hospital visits and the symptoms were not of conventional asthma. Hence the urgent need for monitoring of air quality.

2.5 Amanda introduced Sarah Bell, who has been involved at Euston/Somers Town in responding to similar problems arising from HS2 and other construction works in that area. As previously discussed by the Forum, LB Camden has been providing far more support to local residents via a sizable officer team. Sarah explained the range of approaches that had been pursued by the Somers Town Neighbourhood Forum.

2.6. Noted that priorities for the next few weeks/months would be **Noise, Air pollution, Seismic vibrations**. Amanda would be reaching out to experts and advocates – particularly around the need for support with health and well-being. These include LBE Director of Public Health, Camden advocacy groups, Kings College, UCL, Our own experts: GUA, OONF, individuals within the community

3. Update on latest OPDC activities and governance issues

3.1 Henry Peterson gave a brief update. OPDC continued to devote significant time and staff resources to activities which seemed peripheral to their core functions (Great Places scheme, *In the Making* projects). Very few planning applications of any size were coming through the system to be determined by OPDC Planning Committee.

3.2 Noted that OPDC had been responding to queries on a series of governance issues and had taken steps to tighten up its arrangements on registers of interest, declarations of gifts and hospitality. OPDC Board on 30th May had approved a new staff protocol, designed to ensure separation of activities between the Corporation's role as planning authority and as 'delivery agent'. The perceived blurring of these roles was one of the concerns raised previously with OPDC Chair Liz Peace.

4. June 6th EIP hearing on the OPDC Draft Local Plan

4.1 Henry Peterson explained that this extra public session of the Examination of the Plan would be held at the Collective (following complaints that the Southwark Street location was too distant for local residents. The session would focus on the Integrated Impact Assessments (IAAs) published by OPDC as part of the Local Plan process, and whether these had met the legal requirements. This was one of two 'potential show stoppers' which the Inspector had identified, and which could mean that the whole Local Plan was deemed 'unsound'.

4.2. Cargiant are arguing that Local plan preparation, and these IIA documents in particular, failed to meet EU requirements for strategic environmental assessment. No 'reasonable alternatives' had been put forward for consultation, in the OAPF, Reg 18 and Reg 19 stages of Local Plan preparation.

4.3 Noted that the June 6th hearing will involve legal opinions from QCs and lawyers present on both sides. Henry Peterson and Robin Brown would be attending to give evidence and supporting the view that OPDC had failed to consider alternative options to the 24,000 housing target for Old Oak.

5. Consultation on future of the Linford Christie Stadium

5.1 The meeting briefly considered this consultation exercise, following discussion at the May 7th meeting at which Alan Sendorek from QPR had answered questions. Annie Hanson from the Old Oak Estate reiterated the impact of Option 3 on the public transport network, including East Acton station.. There seemed to have been no effort by LBHF or QPR to assess this in any detail

5.2 Agreed that the Forum should join with FOWWS in supporting Option 2 for a community led and not-for-profit refurbishment of the existing stadium as a local sports centre OONF would submit a response to this effect (HP) and members invited to respond individually before the deadline of June 12th.

6. Harlesden Neighbourhood Plan – outcome of 30th May

6.1 Colin George reported that the outcome of the referendum on the Draft Harlesden Neighbourhood Plan had been a 90% yes vote on an 11% turnout. The Forum was pleased that as many as 1,700 residents had taken the trouble to come out to vote.

6.2 This result meant that the Neighbourhood Plan is no 'made' and its policies will be taken into account when LB Brent and OPDC make decisions on planning applications within their part of the neighbourhood area.

7. Willesden Junction station – latest on redesign proposals

7.1 John Cox advised that there were latest diagrams of proposals for Willesden Junction station, published as part of the responses to the Inspector at the EIP.

7.2 Noted that Liz Peace at the May 30th OPDC Board had said that the Corporation was becoming more interested in the potential of Willesden Junction as a transport hub. This appeared to be because previous plans for new Overground stations in the OPDC area had unravelled, and there were now uncertainties over HS2 also.

8. Any other business

8.1. No additional business. The meeting closed at 20.15pm