

Designation application - OPDC and LBHF display their real views on neighbourhood planning

As many of you will know, the OPDC Board made its decisions at its 12th September Board. Presented with an application for a 280 hectare area, bringing together all the residential areas around the 'Old Oak' half of the OPDC area, the Board has designated only a 22 hectare area to the west Wormwood Scrubs.

This includes the Wesley Estate, the TITRA 'railway cottages', Midland Terrace/Shaftesbury Gardens, and Wells House Road (see green boundary on map below).

The schedule of 229 responses to the OPDC/LBHF consultation, as published on the OPDC website, was later replaced with a version showing 198 responses. This followed our queries about whether 30 responses from the Old Oak Friends and Residents Association (OOFRA) had come from individuals or as one response.

The updated OPDC schedule shows 192 responses of which 82% supported our proposed area. We believe this to be the largest response to a designation application in London to date.

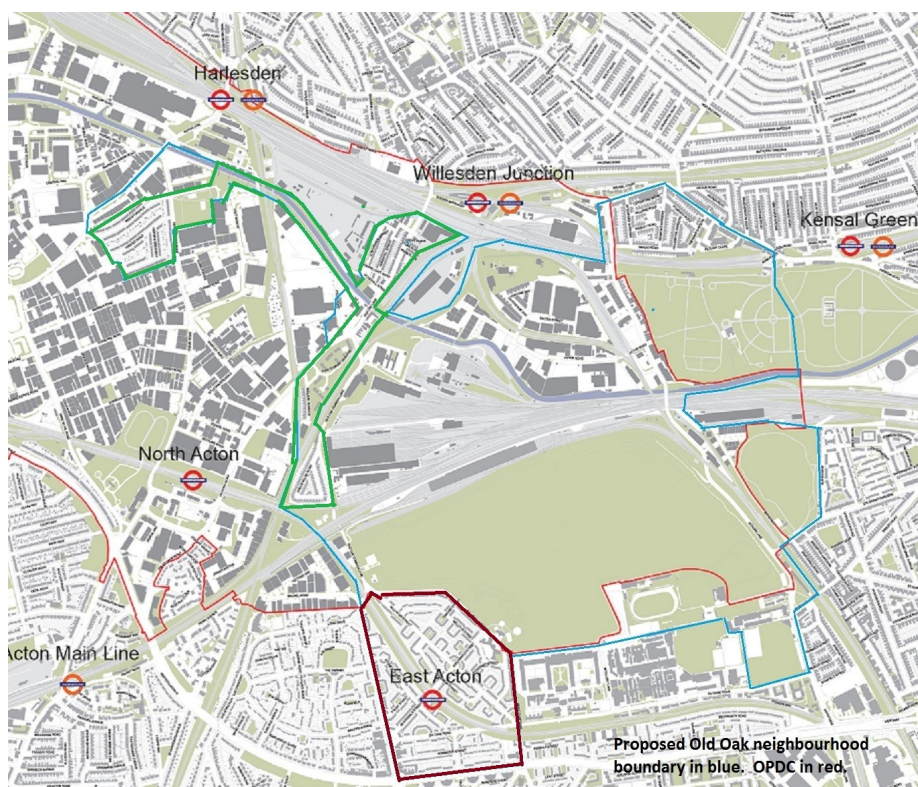
These views from local people (many of whom we have not met, but who read our leaflet) have been ignored.

Hammersmith and Fulham Cabinet on Sept 6th chose to designate only the Old Oak Estate, as a separate area from that designated by OPDC. Their reasons for this decision are very weak, given that 11 residents on the estate supported the OONF wider area while 5 asked for a separate area and forum.

We must now wait to see whether OOFRA apply for designation as a forum. Meanwhile, we need to submit a fresh application for our own formal designation. Because OPDC defined a much smaller area, our April application included only 16 members living or working within that boundary. We now have 50 members within this new boundary and the OPDC has said that designation should proceed swiftly.

A revised application for OONF designation will be circulated shortly. OPDC will publish this for another 6 week consultation, and this will be a chance to send in views on their decisions to date.

At our next open meeting, we will discuss ideas for the Atlas Road neighbourhood centre and other proposals for inclusion in an Old Oak neighbourhood plan. Our 'excluded' neighbours in College Park and to the east of the Scrubs are thinking about their next steps, for which there are several options.



OPDC Local Plan – final consultation

Local residents groups have been given an extra week to finalise responses to consultation on the OPDC Regulation 19 Local Plan. The deadline is Monday 18th September.

We discussed the basis of the OONF response at our open meeting on the 7th at the Collective. The final draft is on our website under 'Local Plan'. We have worked with the Grand Union Alliance, the Hammersmith Society and other groups in framing the response, which has to focus on whether OPDC policies are 'unsound'. Any final comments from OONF members are needed over the weekend, via email to oonforum@gmail.com.