

Grand Union Alliance

A community network focused on influencing large-scale development plans in Old Oak and Park Royal

Newsletter February 2016

GUA influencing policy

Grand Union Alliance member resident and community groups have had some success in effecting change to policy and guidance relating to the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) area. The most significant being changes to the OPDC's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

Planning authorities have legal duty to produce an SCI in which they must explain how the public will be involved in the development of planning policy and on planning applications for the area.

The OPDC consulted on its draft SCI in autumn 2015. In response, GUA members proposed 12 'Ground Rules' to guide how the OPDC and developers involve and engage with the community; influenced by rules drawn up by a community network in Bristol. They also said that the SCI should be more accessible to community members.

In response the OPDC has adopted in full or in part, 10 of the 12 proposed Ground Rules and says it will incorporate issues raised on font sizes, colours used and making diagrams more simple, legible and clearer.

GUA members also effected change to the London Mayor's Old Oak and Park Royal Opportunity Area Planning Framework (OAPF). This is an important document giving some guidance from the Mayor's Office around development in the area (along with the boroughs own planning policy) until the OPDC's planning policy is adopted. It was consulted on in March and April 2015.

Some of the changes to policy included:

- a focus on developing Lifetime Neighbourhoods, while the consultation document was focused on strengthening London's role as a global city;
- acknowledgement of the need for connection and integration with surrounding communities;
- the need to cater for both existing and new communities in terms of amenity spaces;
- exemplary architecture;
- protection and enhancement of the Grand Union Canal and its nature reserve
- provision of skills, training and employment for local people and businesses
- improved walking and cycling to existing residential areas.

OPDC Local Plan

The OPDC is a Mayoral Development Corporation that was set up in April 2015. It has taken over the planning powers for Old Oak and Park Royal from the boroughs of Brent, Ealing and Hammersmith and Fulham. It will produce planning policy (a Local Plan) to guide development in the area.

The OPDC is consulting on its draft Local plan from 4th February to 31st March 2016. It is holding a series of themed consultation and drop-in events, which we would encourage people to attend. Links here to website on the OPDC draft Local Plan - <https://opdc.commonplace.is/> and video - [OPDChttps://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PuorrYi_VMs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PuorrYi_VMs)



OPDC boundaries

GUA meetings on the OPDC draft Local Plan

16th March 5.00 - 9.00pm Main Hall, Harlesden Methodist Church, 25 High St, Harlesden. Discussion with experts on the 18 evidence-based documents that inform the OPDC Local Plan. This is an important event, as planning policy must be evidence based.

21st March 6.30 - 9.00pm All Souls Church, 3 Station Road, London NW10 4UJ A community share and exchange session on the OPDC Local Plan and discussion on putting together effective responses to the consultation.

A community based vision and objectives for the OPDC area

All strategic planning documents including Local Plans, the Mayor's London Plan and Neighbourhood Plans set out a vision and objectives for their area - saying how it will look in 15 to 20 years in the future.

GUA members put together a 'community based vision and objectives' which was submitted to the OPDC in October 2015 aimed at influencing the first draft of the OPDC's Local Plan. [Link here - http://media.wix.com/ugd/4e0a01_c1b57df646429c9f9f2e054d9c9c5b.pdf](http://media.wix.com/ugd/4e0a01_c1b57df646429c9f9f2e054d9c9c5b.pdf)

The first (of two) consultations on planning authorities' Local Plans must provide issues and options around the proposed development.

The OPDC has responded positively saying that **“The community-based vision and objectives provide a comprehensive and detailed range of suggestions which are being used to directly inform the draft Local Plan proposed vision and objectives. Where the suggestions are more relevant for policy options, these have also been used to inform the development of these options.”**

The three London boroughs of Brent, Ealing and Hammersmith & Fulham have also produced a quite detailed document on what they would like included in the OPDC's Local Plan. [Link here to a presentation given at a GUA meeting on this document - https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6VLl9a3igj_cDNKbjBNMG1INzQ/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6VLl9a3igj_cDNKbjBNMG1INzQ/view)

GUA walkabouts



In November 2015, the GUA organised two walkabouts in North Acton and Park Royal to explore the local area by looking particularly at historic buildings and those important to the local community.

More walkabouts will be organised in Spring 2016. Please contact the Grand Union Alliance if you are interested in joining the walks or in helping to organise them.

Old Oak and Park Royal Community Charrette

On Saturday 5th December 2015 around 50 members and contacts of the Grand Union Alliance participated in workshops and hands-on planning sessions at the Old Oak and Park Royal Charrette held at Harlesden Methodist Church.

The event, funded by University College London's Engineering Exchange and Trust for London, was organised / facilitated by JTP architects and master-planners. [Link here to the Charrette Broadsheet: http://media.wix.com/ugd/4e0a01_12e5e006d8a341e392be53779180f300.pdf](http://media.wix.com/ugd/4e0a01_12e5e006d8a341e392be53779180f300.pdf)



Community Charrette

Grand Union Alliance

Grand Union Alliance (GUA) brings together resident and community groups to share views around what is planned in and around the OPDC area. It provides expert and peer group support around how planning policy works and how best to influence it.

GUA is supported by London Tenants Federation and Just Space, formerly through grant funding from Trust for London and currently via Governing the Future City, a two-year international research project being carried out by Jennifer Robinson, UCL, with academics from Johannesburg and Shanghai.

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