

Grand Union Alliance

Statement of Intent and Community Engagement Charter

STATEMENT OF INTENT

Who we are: Grand Union Alliance brings together a network of resident and community groups, individuals and small businesses from the Old Oak and Park Royal and aims to gradually involve groups from neighbouring White City and Kensal Canalside Opportunity Areas.

Our aims: Grand Union Alliance aims to influence large scale developments through strengthening a diverse range of local voices. It aims to ensure that local residents and businesses are well informed, fully consulted and engaged in decision-making about development plans for this part of London. It wants to see plans developed that will sustain existing communities, enhance and respect what local communities currently value in their neighbourhoods and which will mitigate the impact of developments. It will encourage local initiatives that support bottom up planning.

Grand Union Alliance seeks recognition by the GLA, London Mayor and London Boroughs of Brent, Ealing, Hammersmith and Fulham as a key community stakeholder network in discussions on these large scale developments.

How we will work together: While each borough involved with these large development areas has its own engagement strategies, we feel it is essential that residents, community groups and small businesses across the relevant boroughs and planning authorities are able to come together to support one another in engaging and influencing development proposals.

Grand Union Alliance does not aim to supersede existing local groups or networks but rather to facilitate them coming together to exchange across borough boundaries. Where appropriate, and when there is consensus, Grand Union Alliance will speak as one voice; for example around this Community Engagement Charter.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CHARTER

Who do Grand Union Alliance (GUA) and the wider community need to engage with?

- The Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation
- Local elected representatives (including councillors, MPs and London Assembly members)
- Groups related to large scale developments that are involving other stakeholders.

In what way should GUA and the wider community be able to engage?

- At the early stages of plan-making and decision-making so that residents, community groups and small businesses can input proactively.
- Through regular two way conversations.
- Through Grand Union Alliance meetings to which decision-makers will at times be invited to attend, to provide presentations and to discuss issues of importance to local communities in relation to proposed developments.
- Via established neighbourhood and area meetings and forums. Development plans in local Opportunity Areas and the (currently proposed) Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) should be regular items on the agendas of these forums, with opportunities for presentations and debate.
- Through establishment of regular meetings with representatives of the MDC board and intermittent attendance at MDC board meetings (to present ideas / proposals / concerns)
- At meetings and events organised by local and London-wide decision-makers.
- Through a variety of formats including surveys, formal written consultations, the internet, Facebook and twitter, to ensure as wide and inclusive engagement as possible.

What is required to achieve effective engagement?

- Adoption of the Grand Union Alliance Community Engagement Charter by the relevant planning authorities in which the large scale developments occur.
- Regular provision of information and open engagement in accessible formats that all sections of our community can access.
- Transparent and accountable decision-making.
- Identification of the need at a neighbourhood level for accessible meeting spaces and new provision to address existing gaps.
- Grant funding allocated by the MDC and boroughs to support a diverse network of residents, community groups and local businesses coming together around key large scale development issues; including for training, and communication.
- Production of Grand Union Alliance briefings and newsletters to share information, knowledge and skills with others.

Who should have opportunities to be informed, consulted and engaged around proposed large scale development plans?

- Residents associations, local businesses and amenity groups
- Residents (young and old)
- A widest possible range of community and faith groups.
- Those who work in our local schools, colleges and other public and voluntary sector venues.
- Elected representatives.

Who may need support to engage?

- Young and older people
- People with disabilities or who have learning difficulties
- Black and Minority Ethnic communities

If community engagement is working well, what will be achieved?

- There will be widespread awareness amongst local communities of the issues.
- Grand Union Alliance will be recognised by the Mayor's office and the boroughs as a key stakeholder.
- Grand Union Alliance's Community Engagement Charter will be adopted by the Mayor and the boroughs.
- The MDC and / or the boroughs will agree to carry out monitoring and evaluation of their engagement processes around the large development schemes. This will include annual tracking of the views and experiences of a representative survey group of resident and community organisations and small businesses within the boundaries of the four opportunity areas over the next 10 – 15 years.
- Grand Union Alliance will carry out regular surveys of its network members.