

Grand Union Alliance

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

Newsletter Spring 2017

New OPDC chair appointed



Liz Peace CBE, former chief executive of the British Property Federation, has recently been appointed as chair of the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC). She has more than 35 years of experience in government and the property sector.

London Mayor, Sadiq Khan, named her as his choice for the OPDC chair on 30 March 2017 and her appointment was confirmed by the London Assembly on 10 April 2017.

The OPDC board has been without a chair since Sadiq Khan was elected as Mayor of London in May 2016; the previous chair, Ed Lister, having been appointed by Boris Johnson. The review of the OPDC, launched by Khan in June 2016, delayed the appointment of a new chair and as a result a number of the board meetings were cancelled.

Peace chaired her first OPDC board meeting on 11 May.

Old Oak Developments

While the OPDC does not yet have its own adopted planning policy, planning applications are determined (granted permission or not) with reference to the Local Plans of boroughs situated in the OPDC area, the London Mayor's Opportunity Area Planning Framework for Old Oak and the OPDC's emerging Local Plan.

Ealing council is still responsible for determining planning applications in the North Acton (which is in the OPDC area) as agreed when the OPDC was first established.

Many Grand Union Alliance members are particularly concerned about granting for permission for tower blocks at the edges of the OPDC areas. Earlier proposals had indicated that taller buildings would be situated nearer the centre of the area and the new train stations, and building heights would be graduated down to the edges to where existing communities live in lower rise housing.

Recent planning permissions have been granted for 93-97A and 115-129A Scrubs Lane by the OPDC Planning Committee and for 6 Portal Way and 1-4 Holbrook House, Victoria Road by Ealing Council's Planning Committee.

OPDC draft Local Plan consultation

The announcement of a general election in June, as well as the delayed appointment of a new OPDC chair, has resulted in a later date for the start of consultation on the OPDC draft (regulation 19) Local Plan. This is unlikely to commence until late June or July when originally the OPDC had suggested March 2017.

A [draft of the Local Plan](#) document is, however, already on the OPDC's website, available for public scrutiny. Some alterations may still be made before the formal consultation commences, but it is likely that these will be minor.

Grand Union Alliance (GUA) will hold a series of meetings and a conference on the draft Local Plan, evidence based documents that support the Plan and on how to make effective responses to the consultation. (Meeting dates and venues overleaf - some of these will be before the formal consultation commences).

In responding to the consultation, members of the public will need to relate their comments to what are called 'tests of soundness'. After the consultation, there will also be an 'examination in public', chaired by an independent planning inspector. Those making submissions to the consultation will be able to make a request to attend the public examination.

GUA's [Development of a Local Plan](#) (on the 'publications' page of the GUA website) provides more information on the stages of consultation of a Local Plan, the tests of soundness and the Examination in Public.

Links to the GUA's collaborative response to the previous OPDC draft (regulation 18) Local Plan and the OPDC's evidence based documents can be found on the '[responses to consultation](#)' page of the GUA website.

Analysis of the [responses to the draft regulation 18 consultation](#) can also be found on the GUA's 'publications' page.

Meetings and conference on the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation's (OPDC) draft Local Plan

The OPDC's Local Plan will guide developments that are to take place in Old Oak and Park Royal over the next 20 years.

The following GUA meetings and conference will provide information and discussion about the draft plan for community members -

residents, voluntary sector groups and small businesses - from within and surrounding the Old Oak and Park Royal area. Each will consider different policy issues.



Impression of Old Oak Common in 2043 - from the 2013 'Old Oak: A Vision for the Future'.

- **Tuesday 23rd May** An overview of the draft Local Plan, its vision and policy on environmental sustainability. **6.30-8.30pm - All Souls Church, Station Road Harlesden, London NW10 4UJ.**
- **Monday 5th June** Draft Local Plan policy on transport and connections in Old Oak and Park Royal and to surrounding areas. **6.30-8.30pm - All Souls Church, Station Road Harlesden, London NW10 4UJ.**
- **Tuesday 13th June** Policy relating to new and existing jobs, training and employment spaces in Old Oak and Park Royal **6.30-8.30pm - Harlesden Methodist Church, 25 High St, London NW10 4NE.**
- **Saturday 24th June** **GUA CONFERENCE** New places planned in the OPDC area; their integration with surrounding communities; new housing - including types, height and density; heritage, social & community facilities and green & open spaces. **10.30am-4.30pm - Pentecostal City Mission Church, 2 Scrubs Lane, London NW10 6RB** **Please book by phone or email if you plan to attend the conference so we know how many we will be catering for.**
- **Tuesday 11th July** Delivery of the plan - costs, phasing, and community involvement. **6.30- 8.30 - All Souls Church, Harlesden, London NW10 4UJ.**

We also plan to hold one or two afternoon and evening events on making 'effective responses to the consultation'. **Please check out website for information on when and where these will be held.**

Don't hesitate to contact (details below) for more information.