



PlanWimbledon - Wimbledon Neighbourhood Planning Group (“WNPG”) - General Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, 14th of December 2020, *remotely via Zoom. 8pm*

Chair: Suzanne Grocott (SG) Minutes: Lynne Gordon (LG)

Attendees:

SteerCo: Deborah Crosby (DC); Rob Cowan (RC); Tim Day (TD); Regina Denton (RD); Alan Maries (AM); Lynne Gordon (LG); Mark Morgan (MM)

Members: Noted

Chair’s Welcome:

SG welcomed everyone. She reported that there had not been a meeting for all members of the group since the inaugural AGM held on the 25th of January 2020. Covid had impacted the progress of the group as it had limited its ability to consult widely, nevertheless a great deal of work had been taking place which would be detailed at the meeting.

SG reported that several people had left the Steering Group since its inauguration and several people had been co-opted for assigned tasks, this was to be expected in a volunteer group as people’s personal circumstances change. She thanked everyone for their contribution, in particular, Jonathan Parker who had been the driving force behind achieving inauguration.

Planning Overview:

Rob Cowan gave an overview of what the new Government White Paper means for planning and the key developments outlined in Future Merton’s draft Local Plan for Wimbledon (presentation attached).

PlanWimbledon: An Overview of Developments in 2020:

Purpose/Strategy/Area/Membership map/Name/ Logo/Team/The Path to Designation (presentation attached)

Approval of the New Constitution:

LG explained that as the group progresses towards designation, it will require a more detailed constitution, therefore, a new draft constitution for the group had been circulated with the invitation to the meeting. There had been feedback on three points:

1.1: Greater clarity on definition of the new name

4.8: Giving access to the group's membership list would contravene GDPR guidelines so this would need to be removed

11.0: The confidentiality clause was felt to be too draconian and this would be replaced by a code of conduct which could be updated on a regular basis.

LG would circulate a revised constitution in the next few days and would ask for approval from members.

Getting Involved:

AM made a call for help from members. In particular, help was urgently needed in the following areas:

Database Development and Management: Software; Digital Mapping; Social Media; Legal; Financial; Community Liaison (several); Online Surveys.

Questions:

Following the presentation, the following points were made/ questions were asked:

1. Clarification on the London Plan proposals for the various areas of Wimbledon. Wimbledon Town Centre was earmarked for more office/business development with housing development being centred on South Wimbledon, Colliers Wood.
2. There was concern about current proposed building heights, notably the Centre Court sales brochure and those in Colliers Wood.
3. Level of membership required to achieve designation. It was explained that here was an absolute minimum of 21 but many more would be needed for an area of our proposed size. Members also need to be spread across the whole area and represent the diversity of the area. The final plan will be subject to a referendum, so awareness and support of the process/plan needs to be high.
4. The plan should encompass as wide a number of issues as possible e.g., the South West Waste Plan since these impact greatly on planning within the area
5. It would be good to bring together all the planners who are active within the various RAs and community groups to provide a central resource and prevent duplication of effort. The Wimbledon Society should be part of this.
6. Since the Neighbourhood Plan has to be in line with the Local Plan, what could it add? This needs to be explored further as the new proposals are just being published but it was thought that it could add much more detail / determine precise standards on design codes, building standards; sustainability etc.
7. Timetable for Designation: It was hoped that the group would apply for designation by the end of March, the LBM Planning Department would then have a three-month consultation period and, if successful, would probably go to Full Council in September and we would get their decision by November.
8. Several members present congratulated the group on the progress made and many offered their help and active support in the future.
9. Jonathan Parker asked if "when the Group applies to the Council for designation, in order to show competence to the planning officers being asked to endorse the application, will this year's SteerCo

meeting minutes be made available?" It was confirmed that the SteerCo minutes would be available for inspection by the Council if required during the designation process.

Next Meeting:

This would be the AGM scheduled for the end of January 2021. Date and time tbc.