



PlanWimbledon General Meeting Minutes - **DRAFT**

Date: Tuesday, 27 July 2021, *remotely via Zoom and YouTube. 7.30pm*

Chair: Suzanne Grocott (SG) / Augustin Bataille (AB)

Minutes: Lynne Gordon (LG)

Attendees:

SteerCo: Regina Denton (RD); Alan Maries (AM); Sue Hale (SH); Deborah Crosby (DC); Tim Day (TD), Rob Cowan (RC).

Members: XX via Zoom, XX via YouTube

Minutes: The minutes of the previous General Meeting held on the 15th of June 2021 were approved.

Presentation on Future Options for PlanWimbledon: Full Presentation on PlanWimbledon.org Website

The SteerCo presented a slide deck about future options for PlanWimbledon. The presentation is available at www.planwimbledon.org

Following this the group debated several questions:

1. Should we give up and pack our bags? Or pursue a new application?

- The group were unanimous that they wished to carry on and try for designation again. It was noted that this decision should also be kept under review as and when circumstances change.
- It was agreed that we should continue contacting local businesses individually in order to gain their support and grow our business membership. The group also agreed that it was important to find a way of working with Love Wimbledon. We need to ascertain their requirements in any agreement in terms of area covered, constitution and voting rights, etc.

- As we pursue a new application, we should continue to find ways to clarify and communicate what PlanWimbledon stands for and look at ways of raising our profile with all our communities and contacts.

2. *Do you still support the proposed area?*

- The group had a mixed response to this. It was agreed that gaining designation may be easier if the area were smaller.
- However, there was no consensus on how to change the area – this would depend on the level of support we could garner in areas such as Weir Road.
- Several members expressed they did not want to lose Weir Road from the PlanWimbledon area as the HGVs in particular were an issue which blighted the whole of Wimbledon.
- It was agreed that we would keep this issue under review and see what progress could be made in recruiting new members.

3. *In parallel, should we start a complaints procedure and /or investigate a legal procedure such as a judicial review?*

- The group had a mixed response to this. Those against this proposal thought it would take too much time and resource and might have a deleterious effect on our relationship with the Council. Concerns were also raised about the costs involved in a full Judicial Review.
- Those for, thought it would give much clearer guidance on where we were aiming for in any subsequent application plus demonstrate to the Council that we were serious about our application.

4. *Should we start planning representation activities?*

- Overall, the group were against engaging and commenting on individual planning applications.
- The group supported the proposal that we should start working on defining the key areas which we would be planning to cover in any future neighbourhood plan particularly vis-a-vis the new Local Plan. It was felt that this would enable us to give better understanding of what we stand for.

5. *How can we build our membership? / Should we have some form of public support programme?*

- The group thought that it was a good idea to seek high profile support.
- We should also try to get more support from our local MP, the Labour Ward Councillors across the Borough, big business and AFC Wimbledon plus all the local Residents Associations and other Community Associations.
- It was agreed that we should seek some form of funding e.g. voluntary subscriptions or specific crowd funding.

Other Questions:

1. *What was the final vote at the Council Meeting on the 7th of July and how did it split along party lines?*

- It was confirmed that the motion not to designate the neighbourhood forum and, therefore, proposed area was defeated by only one vote. The voting split was Labour against designation, other political parties for. It was noted that not all councillors were in the Council chamber and the votes of those attending on zoom did not count.

2. *Has the SteerCo discussed and voted on any proposal to make their meetings "open door" to ordinary members during this period pre-designation?*

- It was explained that we invited outside representatives where they could contribute to specific issues but, due to the confidentiality of many issues, we did not allow casual observers

3. *Has the SteerCo asked Future Merton what evidence Love Wimbledon provided Future Merton to back up the claim that PlanWimbledon was anti-BID?*

- This was contained in Love Wimbledon's submission to the consultation which is available on the Merton Council website.



Requests for help from membership:

The SteerCo asked for help and feedback on the following:

- Ask friends, family and neighbours to join us at planwimbledon.org – especially anyone younger than yourself 😊
- Help us to get businesses and local workers engage throughout the process
- Help us identify and reach out to “celebrities”, to increase our support and create a community buzz
- Follow-us on Twitter, YouTube, soon Facebook, etc.
- Help us find social media wizards
- Help fund the legal opinion about the feasibility of a judicial review

Closing Business:

AB thanked the group for their support and feedback. The group also thanked the SteerCo for all their hard work during this process.

Next Meeting:

TBA