



Rt Hon Sadiq Khan, MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

23 February 2015

Dear Sadiq,

Thank you for your letter of 19 February concerning our planning application, jointly with Galliard Homes, for the development of the greyhound stadium site in Plough Lane. You raise two specific concerns, the first being the objection by Wandsworth council to the proposals and the second being concerns raised by local residents, your constituents. I will deal with each in turn

As regards Wandsworth Council's response, you will be aware that their decision to object was contrary to the professional advice of their officers. After analysing the proposals in detail, officers considered there was no objection in principle. They however highlighted various transport issues, particularly relating to parking and highways which need further assessment and explanation. We are in active discussions with TFL and the highways departments of Merton and Wandsworth and expect to be able to fully address these outstanding concerns.

We are also reviewing in detail and preparing responses to the issues (including flooding and healthcare) raised by other statutory consultees. None of these has raised an '*in principle*' objection to the proposal.

In addressing these detailed points it may be necessary to make minor changes to the scheme. We don't however anticipate making any substantive changes to the scale or disposition of the proposed development. However, no final decision will be made until discussions with all relevant parties have been concluded.

Before turning to the concerns of some local residents I would like to set out the consultation process we've been through. As part of the consultation process we circulated 18,000 leaflets to residents of both boroughs and held three public exhibitions, two in Wandsworth and one in Merton during the summer of 2014. Furthermore, Merton council extended its own statutory consultation period to seven weeks, compared to the usual three week period, and has held two forums, one in each borough. I think it is fair to say, therefore, that the consultations have been very extensive and thorough.



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In the light of these consultations, and importantly, we believe that our application has significant support from the local community. Over 6,000 individual letters have now been received in reply to the statutory consultation on the application with over 90% of responses in support of the application. Within these responses, over 2,500 are from Merton and Wandsworth residents of which currently over 80% are in support of the application. These figures mirror the levels of support demonstrated in our pre-application consultation carried out last year.

We do of course acknowledge that, as you say in your letter, some local residents have genuine concerns regarding a planning application of this size. While we appreciate there remains further work to be completed prior to the determination of our application by Merton Council, we are confident that we will be able to address these concerns.

I know you are very busy but Your Shout, who are undertaking our community consultation, and I would welcome the opportunity to discuss any aspect of the proposal with you. Please feel free to contact me if you wish to do so.

I have copied my letter to Councillor Stephen Alambritis, leader of Merton Council. I welcome your plans to share this reply with your constituents; we will also publish a copy on our own site.

Yours sincerely

Erik Samuelson
Chief Executive, AFC Wimbledon

CC Cllr Stephen Alambritis

