

Leo Vermeulen

From: OWGRA info <info@owgra.org.uk>
Sent: 25 April 2021 20:17
To: OWGRA email
Subject: OWGRA e-news, 25 April 2021
Attachments: Petition against THB planning approval, April 2021, v3.pdf

Dear OWGRA Members

A. TESCO/HOMEBASE

Petition to reject approval for redevelopment

We're running a petition for the Mayor of London and/or the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to reject Hounslow Council's recent approval of the planning applications to build tower blocks on the Tesco & Homebase sites. We firmly continue to believe that Hounslow's housing aims can be achieved by developments which are more sympathetic to the area and meet Hounslow's housing needs for family-sized homes.

If you click on this link [Reject planning approval to redevelop Homebase & Tesco Sites, Syon Lane | 38 Degrees](#) it should take you straight to the on-line petition. Please sign it (with all members of your household aged 16 and over), and circulate it to your friends, neighbours and WhatsApp groups in the area. We will promote the petition via social media, and are also running a paper-based petition for those who don't have access to the internet. So, if you have a neighbour or local friend who you know isn't on the internet, then you might want to print off the attached petition for them to sign, and return it to us by Friday 7 May (to 130 Wood Lane, Osterley, TW7 5EQ).

We are also looking for volunteers who would knock on some doors locally to get more signatures. If you have some time to do that, please e-mail us on info@owgra.org.uk. Some of our Street Reps are already out and about obtaining signatures.

The petition has started off well, with almost 400 signatures since it was launched yesterday and that's before it's been promoted on social media and before you've received notification of it. We have set ourselves a target for a combined total of over 2K signatures for the on-line and paper petition.

It's inevitable that there might be some crossover with people signing both the on-line and paper petition but we will try to delete any repeat submissions.

Transcription of 8 April Planning Committee meeting

We do need to transcribe the Planning Committee meeting, and some of us have already made a start on that, so if you can help with this then please let us know. We can divide the 5.5 hours into chunks, so the more of you who volunteer the easier the task. If you can help us with this then please e-mail us on info@owgra.org.uk. Thank you.

Other actions being taken to overturn the planning decision

We are sending letters listing our concerns and objections to the Mayor of London and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, and are seeking legal advice to see what other avenues are open to us to challenge this decision that will transform part of this area of West London into a sea of 16 tower blocks.

We have written a 7-page letter of complaint to the Chief Executive of Hounslow Council about the format and management of the Planning Committee meeting of 8 April and the lead up to it. We have received an unsatisfactory response and will be responding to that with further comments. We've already sent another 2-page letter with other issues that have become apparent as a result of listening to the meeting again. The whole 5.5 hours of the meeting are available to watch here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MxMgeJ5Gn5U&t=17s> – something for the insomniacs!

B. OWGRA AGM, WEDNESDAY 19 MAY 2021, 7.30 pm

Please save the date in your diary. We were unable to hold an AGM last year, and this year's AGM will be held virtually via Zoom. We have a limit of 100 people to attend via Zoom, so to be sure of a place please book now via <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/agm-2021-tickets-151857005391>. We will be sending you more details and an agenda in early May.

C. LONDON ELECTIONS, THURSDAY 6 MAY

Elections for the Mayor of London and London Assembly Members are only 10 days away. Apart from election leaflets from various parties and candidates, you should have received a detailed booklet explaining the elections and listing all the candidates. More information can be found here https://www.londonelects.org.uk/sites/default/files/2021-04/GLABooklet2021_0.pdf

OWGRA recently took part in some hustings where we challenged four candidates (Green, Labour, Lib Dem & Tory) to represent our constituency of London South West (covering the 3 boroughs of Hounslow, Richmond and Kingston) with questions about planning. You can watch the whole 1.5 hours here <https://www.listentolocals.co.uk/video-catch-up> (the OWGRA section starts 1h 21 m into the meeting) or read about it here <https://www.listentolocals.co.uk/post/we-need-a-revolution-in-planning-to-build-trust-transparency>

Our question to the candidates was simple: **“How would you drastically overhaul the failed planning process in Hounslow to build some level of trust and transparency into the system?”** None of the candidates gave a satisfactory answer. We were unable to respond after the candidates responded but below are some points of clarification.

Nick Rogers (Tory) reference to neighbourhood planning:

Despite the Localism Act 2011, setting up a neighbourhood forum is fraught with difficulty. Some Councils are more in favour of them than others (Hounslow is opposed to them). We tried to set one up in Osterley & Spring Grove ward in the early 2010s, but were thwarted by Hounslow Council who deleted all the green areas when designating the neighbourhood area (probably because they hope to build on those areas eventually), so nothing ever came of it.

Gareth Roberts' (Lib Dem) reference to objections often not being based on planning policies:

We spent a lot of time distributing 5 newsletters over the last 8 months to the 5K households in our area and e-mailing our 500 members every few weeks, stressing that objections needed to be based on planning grounds. The list of objections in the Hounslow Officers' reports to the Planning Committee members shows that we did achieve that on the whole.

Candice Atterton (Labour) reference to us being late with submitting some documents:

We met all the deadlines and submitted high-quality evidence-based objections in contrast to the subjective, often unsubstantiated, comments made in the Officers' reports and at the Planning Committee meeting.

OWGRA is apolitical and we can't suggest who you should vote for, but listening to the responses of the candidates might help you decide who you would like to represent you.

D. VOLUNTEER MARSHALS NEEDED AT BRENTFORD LEISURE CENTRE VACCINATION HUB

Volunteers are needed as stewards and marshals at our local vaccination centre. If you feel that you could help, please contact the volunteer co-ordinator, Orika Riley, on orika.riley@nhs.net

E. COMMUNITY LITTER PICKS

We've recently done two more litter picks on 20 March and 17 April, when we had 22 and 20 volunteers respectively clearing the Great West Road between Gillette Corner and the canal near the GSK building, plus the Northumberland Estate East. We were joined by colleagues from Syon ward who have recently set up their own litter picking group.

Our next litter pick will probably be on Saturday 8 or 15 May, depending on the weather forecast. We are fair weather litter pickers!

F. **OSTERLEY LIBRARY OPEN AGAIN**

We are delighted that Osterley Library is open again. For more information see

https://www.hounslow.gov.uk/news/article/2335/joy_for_book_lovers_in_hounslow_as_libraries_reopen?utm_campaign=&utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=

G. **GARDEN CENTRES**

For many of us, the Osterley Garden Centre has helped us maintain our sanity over the last few months. With spring upon us, it becomes even more important. See <https://britishgardencentres.com/osterley-garden-centre/>

And we are delighted to see a new garden centre in Syon Park opening its doors for business since last week. See <https://www.hillier.co.uk/garden-centres/syonpark/>

H. **BOLDER ACADEMY**

The staff and pupils of the Bolder Academy will be moving into the new school on MacFarlane Lane from the end of May. We wish them well in their lovely new school and look forward to having them as good neighbours.

I. **THE MULBERRY CENTRE - TELEPHONE BEFRIENDING PROJECT - SEEKING MORE CLIENTS**

The Mulberry Centre, next to West Middlesex Hospital, seeking more clients who are aged 65 or over and might benefit from a weekly call to hopefully reduce isolation and loneliness. Anyone who may be interested, or is in touch with someone who is, can click the following link <https://themulberrycentre.co.uk/news-updates/telephone-befriending/> - to see what it's about and how to get on the list.

Anyone who lives or works in Hounslow or who has recently been cared for as an inpatient at West Mid and has an end-of-life diagnosis or has recently been bereaved, as well as those diagnosed with cancer, their family and friends or their carers, can access Support Services. Call: 020 8321 6300 or email: talk@themulberrycentre.co.uk

J. **WARREN FARM**

Back in January we included an item on Warren Farm, located on the other side of the M4 along Windmill Lane. The petition to Ealing Council to designate Warren Farm as a nature reserve is still ongoing, so if you didn't sign then, please do so now. Here is the link https://www.change.org/p/ealing-council-ealing-council-give-rewilded-urban-meadow-warren-farm-the-status-of-local-nature-reserve-fb8615ef-0494-4deb-b9a9-7289cebd1d8e?recruiter=7164542&recruited_by_id=e7561310-ead4-012f-12c6-4040b09128dc&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=copylink&utm_campaign=petition_dashboard=

Kind regards

Barbara Stryjak

OWGRA (Osterley & Wyke Green Residents' Association)

www.owgra.org.uk Twitter: @OWGRA