



THE LADYWELL SOCIETY

Chair: M. Keogh Secretary: K. Putman

Please reply to:

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The Mayor of London

FURTHER ALTERATIONS to the LONDON PLAN

8th April 2014

Dear Sir,

Members of The Ladywell Society in the London Borough of Lewisham request that the following are taken into consideration.

Policy 2.18. Concern is expressed that “Open Space” has been replaced by “Green Space”. This narrows the scope of the policy, thus weakening it.

Para. C. This also applies to the change from “meet” to “help address”.

Para F a. “by producing open space and green infrastructure strategies

At a time when open spaces of all types are under pressure, it is felt that this policy should be strengthened.

The Rivers Ravensbourne and Quaggy run through Lewisham, and the borough has a frontage on to the River Thames. It is felt that these and all waterways, reservoirs, lakes, ponds etc should be specifically included in the “Open Space” definition, not just as the Blue Ribbon Network.

Para 3.71 The addition to this paragraph is welcomed, but it is felt that the appraisals should be publicly available.

Experience has shown that developers are able to “prove” that their developments are not able to provide affordable housing, or at a level well below that which is required, using the “financial viability” reason, which is only available to planning officers. Public scrutiny of the figures would lead to greater transparency.

Policy 3.18B. To ensure that free schools are provided in areas of need, the clause where there is a proven undersupply of school places should be added to ensure that schools are opened where they are needed for educational reasons and no other.

Para 4.48A. This additional paragraph is supported in both letter and spirit.

Policy 7.18. The removal of “local” from this policy is opposed. Any open space which is not accessible and/or which is privately owned would be excluded. This could encourage private landlords/landowners to close off hitherto accessible open space.

Para 7.103. Royal Docks. Building homes on or over open spaces of water is opposed. As already stated, the Blue Ribbon Network and any open water should be designated “open space” and protected as such. The loss of amenity of water spaces is not supported: the uniqueness of the Royal Docks, as stated in the paragraph, would be diminished and degraded. Also, open water can act as a “heat sink”, which at a time of global temperature changes is important to London.

Appendix A2 152. The removal of Lee Green as a District Centre is not supported. Because of improvements to retail and housing in the area, the designation should remain with the Policy direction Medium R.

Thank you.

Geoffrey Thurley
Committee member
The Ladywell Society