

from West Ealing Centre Neighbourhood Forum

Dear Mr Johnson,

Re: 1.45. 'A Changing Planning System'

London First and the London Communications Agency claim that there are 74 Neighbourhood Forums already set up in London. This number, according to DCLG, is likely to grow substantially and quickly over the coming years. In my own town of Ealing the number of Neighbourhood Forums doubled to four in March 2014. This is the most dynamic sector of London's planning 'industry' where those who live, work or have an interest in a neighbourhood are working together, under the auspices of the 2011 Localism Act, to create Neighbourhood Plans. London, of course, is unique in England in that its regional planning guidelines have been retained and are in fact being refined.

The London Plan (TLP) and Further Alterations to the London Plan(FALP) make scant reference to Neighbourhood Plans and Neighbourhood Forums and FALP 1.45 adds no meaningful content-based neighbourhood spatial development planning policy other than to admit that The 2011 Localism Act 'introduces neighbourhood planning'.

Re:1.59

Change the reference to 'LDF' and 'Local Development Frameworks' to 'LP' and 'Local Plan' here and in all other parts of TLP.

Re: 2.72G

No explicit mention here of 'close co-ordination' needed between Neighbourhood Forums and 'the London Enterprise Panel, Transport for London, boroughs, land owners, occupiers and other partners'.

Re: Policy 3.2 and 3.10

Mental health needs are the largest defined category of need in the NHS in England. The Royal College of Psychiatrists estimates that 10% of all those citizens over the age of 65 have mental health problems. This category of the elderly mentally ill in London is projected to number a staggering 149,000 by

2036. Although many of these vulnerable people will have volunteer carers (often family members) a significant number cannot live an independent life and need sheltered supported accommodation. Some of them have a life-long vulnerability and will never get 'better'. London's sink Council owned housing estates often built in the 1960s and 1970s have over the years become dumping grounds for the mentally ill. Green Man Lane Estate and Dean Gardens Estate are just two examples of sink estates which are located in the Government designated West Ealing Centre Neighbourhood Area. Regeneration projects which aim to re-house these mentally ill people must include the explicit provision of on-site carer and mental health staff accommodation.

Re: Table 3.1

The increase of Ealing's housing supply annual monitoring target 2015 – 2025 by 45% to 1,297 is, I claim, unsupported by any meaningful public domain evidence and is almost certainly unattainable. If these housing volumes and densities are achieved in Ealing it will be at the cost of reducing the quality of life for existing residents, not to mention increasingly acrimonious planning meetings, appeals, public inquiries and Judicial Reviews.

Policy 3.7

No explicit mention here of engaging with Government designated Neighbourhood Forums. Further more akin to the 'Duty to Support' requirement placed on LPAs re Neighbourhood Forums in the 2011 Localism Act the GLA must assign to itself a 'Duty to Support' London Neighbourhood Forums.

Housing

It is extremely unhelpful to neighbourhood planners in Government designated Neighbourhood Forums that the GLA's 2013 Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) is not made available to them. For many it will be impossible for them to create meaningful neighbourhood spatial planning policies without access to the SHLAA document/data.

Guidance for Neighbourhood Plan Preparation in London

In the same vein as 'LDF Preparation' guidance there should be equivalent

preparation guidance for Neighbourhood Plan preparation.

Transport

1. TfL must take on a duty to engage with Neighbourhood Forums.
2. With the actual, imminent or future closures of NHS Accident & Emergency departments at Ealing, Charing Cross, Central Middlesex and Hammersmith Hospital there will be extensive new needs for patients and carers to travel to out of their boroughs to new NHS Major Hospital in north west London. In 2010/11 there were 84,000 A&E admissions alone at Ealing Hospital. Also birthing facilities at Ealing Hospital will close by February 2015 and new public transport facilities for pregnant women must be put in place for them to travel to retained birthing units including those at Queen Charlotte's Hospital and Northwick Park Hospital. In 2012/13 there were 2,400 births at Ealing Hospital. This is the result of NHS NW London implementing its 'Shaping a Healthier Future' programme to cut £1 billion costs. TfL must have appropriate public transport services in place prior to these changes in 'settings of care' being implemented.

Yours sincerely

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