



Friends of Wimbledon Park

Response to LDA Design Consultation

We have been critical of the approach by Merton on their Master Plan since we addressed Stephen Alambritis (Council Leader) and Oonagh Moulton (Opposition Leader) on 22nd September 2015. We are still critical.

We have offered to discuss the park with the consultants but have been restricted to 3 short sessions earlier this year and the recent public consultations. This has meant the consultants made many errors and omissions and the document by Dave Dawson listing these is attached.

We comment:

- We have been disquieted on the timing and availability of material for the consultation.
- The chosen method of submission of the consultant's ideas is by way of 10 information boards which guided the reader to various options. These take considerable time to read.
- It should be clear but isn't that many of the options are interchangeable.
- It's clear that the proposal to move the stadium to the north east of the park has provoked a lot of concern and flyers have appeared in shop windows broadly saying 'save our Park'. This has overwhelmed the consultation.

We propose:

- That the response to this consultation should be considered with care and it may resolve the stadium location issue.
- An extension to the consultation should then be provided so that further suggestions and ideas can be considered.
- One or more public presentations by the consultants should be made. This should follow the normal format of presenting for about 30 minutes followed by Q&A.

Our concerns:

- The dam is at High Risk so will need attention and money has been set aside for this but we don't know the scope of the work or the timetable.
- We have been asking that the lake be surveyed for years. It appears this is in hand but still incomplete. The results matter.
- The Heritage Park is now on Historic England's 'at Risk Register' and this also matters.

Yours

Nick Steiner

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Chair Friends of Wimbledon Park