



St Quintin and Woodlands Neighbourhood Forum

Newsletter October 2016

Aurora development threatens Little Wormwood Scrubs

Those who came to our open meeting in June saw the image below, of the residential tower proposed within a development badged as 'North Kensington Gate'. This is planned for two sites on the east side of Scrubs Lane, overlooking St Marys Cemetery. The sites are in Hammersmith rather than in Kensington.

Developers Aurora have now submitted separate planning applications for each site. The proposed buildings are of very different design (although claimed to 'complement' one another). The southern site is likely to prove the most controversial.

The application will be decided by the OPDC (Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation). This body took over planning powers in April 2015 from the three borough councils across which the OPDC area extends.



The omens are not good. The OPDC recently granted planning permission for a major tall building at 'Oaklands' (on the western side of Wormwood Scrubs). The Corporation's 'Place Review Group' (made up of 'Building Environment Experts' appointed by CABE at the Design Council) have already deemed this 22 storey tower to be '*elegant in its proportions*'.

The OPDC is holding a session in North Acton on October 19th at which the developers will present their plans. For details see at this [link](#) or email to info@stqw.org. StQW will be represented. CGI images (provided as part of the application) show that the tower will be clearly visible from Little Wormwood Scrubs. This is only the beginning of the assault on our skyline to the north west, as the OPDC progresses its Local Plan (due for adoption in late 2017).

North Kensington Library

The Council is currently holding consultation sessions on the planned building to replace the much loved Victorian library on Ladbroke Grove.

There will be further sessions in early November. Dates at this [link](#). Those who have looked at the plans (see below for the image that the Council is using on its website) are not very impressed.

The StQW Forum/St Helens Residents Association has not joined the campaign to retain the library in its current building. While an admirable building, its use as a library has drawbacks in terms of accessibility. And the building will remain in use when in future leased by Notting Hill Prep.

But whether the proposed new building is the best that RBKC can achieve on a new site is another matter (see the Council's CGI image below). We will be liaising with the Golborne Forum and the Kensington Society to hear their views, before submitting comments when the planning application appears.



NHS reorganisations in this area

The West London CCG held a public consultation meeting on October 12th at St Helens Church, to explain the latest '*Sustainability and Transformation Plan*' which all CCGs are currently required to prepare.

Not much new. Aspirations to join up health and social care, and to achieve 'behavioural change' on the obesity epidemic, seem pretty stuck at present. No one present could confirm the future of our St Quintins Health Centre, but the latest news seems to be that a review by NHS Property Services (ongoing for some years) has yet to conclude.