

Comments from the Fortune Green and West Hampstead Neighbourhood Development Forum on the Draft New London Plan.

The Forum generally supports the aspirations of the plan but is concerned by aspects of the implementation.

o The London Plan mentions Neighbourhood Plans only four times. We think this a major weakness in the Plan as it does not recognise the input available from local people. The Redington Froggnal Association's comments on the London Plan succinctly elucidates our concerns :

“Neighbourhood plans are the most local part of the planning system. Such plans enable Londoners to help to shape the future of their own neighbourhood. They ensure early public engagement in development and regeneration proposals. In the context of the London Plan, neighbourhood plans can contribute local knowledge in the identification of vacant and underused sites suitable for new housing – a very high priority of the Mayor of London. Greater public input to the selection of such sites, and a wider public understanding of issues of viability and affordability, can be achieved by wider take up of the neighbourhood planning framework across London.”

o Policy GG5 has nothing on support for small businesses smaller centres of commercial areas, or the protection of commercial premises in such areas which are frequently subject to redevelopment as residential to the detriment of the economic viability of the whole street of local shops and businesses.

o D8 Tall Buildings. The impact of tall buildings in some area would be catastrophic to the identity and amenity of some areas, including our area. The London Plan should recognise more clearly their impact, and make it clear that mid-rise can achieve similar densities.

We are also concerned that much infrastructure is expected to follow residential development rather than infrastructure development leading residential

We also support the other issues raised in the Redington Froggnal Association's submission

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