

MAYOR OF LONDON

Calum McCulloch
London Borough of Merton
By Email

Our ref: 2021/1136/S2
Your ref: 21/P2900
Date: 22 January 2024

Dear Calum McCulloch

Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended); Greater London Authority Acts 1999 and 2007; Town & Country Planning (Mayor of London) Order 2008
Direction under Section 2A of the 1990 Act
Home Park Road, Wimbledon Park
Local Planning Authority reference: 21/P2900

I refer to your letter of 16 January 2024 informing the Mayor that the local planning authority is minded to approve planning permission for the above planning application I refer you also to the notice, dated 16 January 2024 under the provisions of article 5(1)(b)(i) of the above Order.

The Mayor has delegated his planning powers to me. Having now considered a report on this case, reference 21/P2900 (copy enclosed), I hereby direct (under the powers conferred by Section 2A of the 1990 Act) that the Deputy Mayor will act as the local planning authority for the purposes of determining the above planning application 21/P2900.

My reasons are as follows:

- a) The development would have a significant impact on the implementation of the London Plan because the expansion of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships, would enhance London's global competitiveness by promoting and supporting one of its key cultural assets. The proposal could also improve access to green, open space and sporting facilities for the community. At the same time, the subject site is MOL, which is afforded the same level of protection as Green Belt in the London Plan. Therefore, the application is considered to be of a nature and scale which would have a significant impact on the implementation of London Plan, as set out in the attached report.
- b) The development would have a significant effect on more than one London Borough as set out in the attached report. In summary, the Wimbledon Tennis Championships are one of the most prestigious sporting tournaments in the world and, as a result, the visitation and economic impacts associated with the event are significant with effects felt well beyond the boroughs of Merton and Wandsworth.
- c) There are sound planning reasons for the Mayor's intervention as set out in the attached. In summary, the expansion of the Wimbledon Tennis

Championships site would enhance London's economy and global competitiveness by promoting and supporting one of its key cultural assets. Furthermore, in addition to the expansion of the AELTC the proposal would deliver significant benefits through the new public parkland, a boardwalk around the lake, desilting of Wimbledon Park Lake, a range of off-site enhancements to Wimbledon Park as well as other community and public benefits.

In making this decision, I have also had regard to targets identified in development plans related to economy, employment and open space (as detailed within the enclosed GLA planning report).

The application represents EIA development for the purposes of the applicable Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations. I have taken the environmental information made available to date into consideration in formulating my decision.

I would be grateful if you could provide me, as soon as reasonably practicable, any information relevant to the application that has not already been provided. In due course I will notify you of the date of the Representation Hearing, and I will consult you on any draft planning obligation and planning conditions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jules Pipe". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Jules Pipe CBE

Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills

cc Leonie Cooper, London Assembly Constituency Member
Sakina Sheikh, Chair of London Assembly Planning Committee
National Planning Casework Unit, DLUHC
TfL
Jon Roshier, Agent, Rolfe Judd