

**From:** 3232siobhan . [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 02 March 2018 13:09  
**To:** Londonplan  
**Subject:** NEW DRAFT LONDON PLAN

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

To whom it may concern:

**Policy GG1 Building strong and inclusive communities**  
**Policy S1 Developing London's social infrastructure**  
**Policy HC5 Supporting London's culture and creative industries and**  
**Policy HC7 Protecting Public Houses**

**#1 Help produce a shift in thinking so that access to and the value of community spaces is not based on business plans and income generation but on the social value of the community space and its contribution to health and wellbeing, inclusion, integration, empowerment and poverty reduction.**

**#2 Recognising the irreplaceability and uniqueness of many community spaces and looking after them for future generations is part of a continuing legacy.**

**#3 Valuing and resourcing community-centred knowledge and creativity for the contribution this can make to policy discussions and a whole system approach to community engagement across the GLA.**

**#4 Community spaces are not just physical buildings, but social spaces where cultural expression takes place. These social spaces provide movement and interaction between different cultures and it is important they are integrated as well as truly accessible to all.**

**#5 Community spaces are essential to the achievement of lifetime neighbourhoods in which housing, health and education facilities, shops and other local amenities are affordable and accessible to everyone, now and for future generations, and there is support for community networks based on social co-operation and mutual aid.**

**#6 Housing estates provide a wide range of community spaces – community halls, open spaces, playgrounds and other facilities – which must be protected and their use encouraged.**

**(Name.)**

**(Organisation)**

In Vassall and Coldharbour Forum (VACF), we have guiding principles that have come out of years of collaborative pain and joy. Here, we are using them to respond to the London plan. The parts in bold are our comments on the draft London Plan, and we have left the guiding principles in so you understand the values of the community who are offering these specific comments. It may take a bit more effort for you to take on board our comments, but we want to remedy our invisibility in the planning process and also make transparent the values that are underpinning the comments.

These comments refer to

Policy GG1 Building strong and inclusive communities

Policy S1 Developing London's social infrastructure

Policy HC5 Supporting London's culture and creative industries and

Policy HC7 Protecting Public Houses

VACF Guiding Principle 1. We value COLLECTIVE, OPEN AND ACCESSIBLE WORKING

PRACTICES that are open to and build with community.

**Comments on the draft London Plan coming out of this principle:**

**Participation in the draft London plan has not been enabled for each and every community member and group to become involved in its process.**

**For example, In Policy S1, regarding Developing London's social infrastructure, the phrase 'Development proposals' appears three times and 'seeking, maintaining and supporting community participation' doesn't appear once.**

VACF Guiding Principle 2. We VALUE the life-ways, knowledges and experiences of each and every community member, especially those who are less acknowledged on account of their race, gender, class, income, ability or religion. We work towards the full acknowledgement and participation of each -community member. We actively BUILD TRUST.

**Comments on the draft London Plan coming out of this principle:**

**We are concerned that it does not build the trust, nor an appropriate platform necessary for increased engagement in public processes.**

**We don't see the life-ways, knowledges and experiences of each and every community member acknowledged in the plan.**

VACF Guiding Principle 3. We DRAW ATTENTION TO how important all people and all heritage is in building community culture, because it makes it strong and stable across generations. We act in ways which demonstrate that both people and heritage grow SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY. We resist the erosion of what we have built, through struggles and through careful negotiation, over time and we invite creative input from all members of the community.

We acknowledge how both people and heritage grow SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY and are concerned about the erosion of what Londoners have built, through struggles and through careful negotiation, over time and we invite creative input from all members of the community.

**Comments on the draft London Plan coming out of this principle:**

**We would like to see embedded in the London plan, inclusive ways for communities to become stronger and more robust, enabling those with expertise to 'pass the baton' and share this expertise across age/race/income/ability/income/gender divides.**

**We don't see in the Plan suggestions for how to redress and remedy the ways people have been disunited by building developments across London.**

**We don't see in the Plan any action to honour the feelings of fear and loss about the changing nature of neighbourhoods?**

**We don't see in the Plan recommendations to encourage the community to invest time and resources in community run, community focussed organisations?**

**We don't see in the Plan acknowledgement of how Housing estates provide a wide range of community spaces – community halls, open spaces, playgrounds and other facilities – nor a protection of these spaces and support to use them to greater and fuller capacity.**

VACF Guiding Principle 4. We WELCOME AND NURTURE DIVERSITY OF COMMUNICATION AND INPUT by encouraging a range of communication styles to help grow and inspire more shared, abundant and co-creative engagement.

**Comments on the draft London Plan coming out of this principle:**

**We don't see in the plan strategies for implementation to help nurture diversity, and grow and inspire more shared, abundant and co-creative engagement.**

VACF Guiding Principle 5. We are rooted in the local but balanced by looking at the 'global'. We think and act in a way that increases the community's awareness of itself as well as its understanding of outside initiatives and the wider social, economic and political context.

**Comments on the draft London Plan coming out of this principle:**

**We don't see in the Plan strategies to help produce a shift in thinking so that access to and the value of community spaces is not based on business plans and income generation, but on the social value of the community space and its contribution to health and wellbeing, inclusion, integration, empowerment and poverty reduction.**

**Without specific support to access community spaces, how can communities meet, grow and learn together; how can poorer communities host their own learning and initiatives for well-being?**

**With specific support to access community spaces, how can the recommendations, as they stand in the London Plan, support individuals to grow their awareness, participation and self-created improvement of individual and family opportunities.**

**With specific support to access community spaces, how can the very people who hold the knowledge and wisdom to support the wellbeing of communities do so, without a valuing and resourcing of community-centred knowledge?**

**With specific support to access community spaces, how can the whole community work alongside the GLA for a London that works for all, without specific resources to support us?**

VACF Guiding Principle 6. We CARE ABOUT FAMILIES, CHILDREN and WORK-LIFE BALANCE. We understand that at the personal, family and community level that spiritual and emotional well-being is important. We also understand the importance of children, elders and people with disabilities being well cared for within the context of safe, sound and shared family and community responsibilities, and we strive to support this happening as we progress.

**Comments on the draft London Plan coming out of this principle:**

**We really question the concept of good growth if inequalities are not being addressed and means it is so hard for some members of our community to meet needs for their own, their family's and community's well-being?**

**We would love to see a Plan for London that really acknowledges everyone's needs mattering equally, which involves looking at how different Londoner's needs for safety, equality, wellbeing aren't being met.**

**We would love to see a plan that acknowledges and values spiritual and emotional wellbeing.**

VACF Guiding Principle 7. We value the importance of healthy, safe and inspiring environments to live and work in and that each member of the community, from child to elder has a responsibility to contribute to both creating and maintaining such an environment.

**Comments on the draft London Plan coming out of this principle:**

**We don't see any consideration to the impact of intensification/densification on the health and wellbeing of people and of any mechanisms you suggest to avoid this negative impact. We are concerned that with densification in poorer areas how the environment can become more safe, healthy and inspirational.**

**We are concerned that the Plan does not support all community members to become and continue to share in the creative and sustaining responsibility of environmental care and management.**

*Yours sincerely*

Siobhan Mooney





(VACF)

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