

Connected to Survey Response 12673329291

I have gone through the SurveyMonkey questionnaire and endorsed the neighbourhood area proposed by PlanWimbledon. Although I was persuaded to be one of the named members on the application which led to the PlanWimbledon consultation going live - for the designation of a neighbourhood area and forum - I will leave the formal Yes vote about whether to endorse PlanWimbledon, as the suitable body for designation as a neighbourhood forum, to those people who are being allowed to see the decision-making processes of the PlanWimbledon SteerCo (steering committee) during the six months that led up to the application being made.

If the PlanWimbledon SteerCo has been working together on the application to become a designated neighbourhood forum without being dominated by one or two voices, however well-meaning they might be, then PlanWimbledon deserves to be endorsed and designated as the neighbourhood forum. If the PlanWimbledon SteerCo has accepted the help of anyone wishing to get involved, regardless of whether that person is the "right sort", then PlanWimbledon deserves to be endorsed and designated as the neighbourhood forum. If the PlanWimbledon SteerCo has the positive mindset that "members care", then PlanWimbledon deserves to be endorsed and designated as the neighbourhood forum - the organisation or body responsible for creating a neighbourhood plan.

Whether all those PlanWimbledon members elected to serve on the SteerCo are listened to equably - with their collective decisions, on behalf of ordinary members, being made in a fair and democratic fashion - is not something I am in a position to judge because there is no open door policy for ordinary members to attend SteerCo meetings and ordinary members of PlanWimbledon are not able to see PlanWimbledon SteerCo meeting minutes, for reasons I struggle to understand but which must be respected.

Merton Planning Officers, who are able to see PlanWimbledon SteerCo meeting minutes, are better placed to form an opinion of PlanWimbledon's competence and also form a view about the structure of the numerous PlanWimbledon SteerCo meetings that have been held.

It was good to learn during the consultation, from a member of the PlanWimbledon SteerCo, that "The Steering Committee has already decided that minutes of the Neighbourhood Forum Steerco meetings would be published, following designation." This is a very good sign in the context of the many responses I have received from other neighbourhood planning groups with regard to openness.

I hope you are able to find reasons to justify endorsing the application being made by PlanWimbledon for designation as the neighbourhood forum for the Wimbledon area proposed.