

Our Ref. GB/CMG

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2013

Mr James McGinlay  
Head of Sustainable Communities  
London Borough of Merton  
Merton Civic Centre  
London Road  
Morden SM4 5DX

Re: Wimbledon Greyhound Stadium

**Submission of representations to the Sites & Policies DPD (Stage 4) – Wimbledon Greyhound Stadium (Site 37)**

Dear Mr McGinlay

Further to your letter dated the 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2013, please refer to the statement below from Hume Consulting Ltd in relation to the issue of land ownership at Wimbledon Greyhound Stadium, Plough Lane. In addition, we also enclose a copy of a petition with almost 5000 names of people in support of Hume Consulting's proposal to retain greyhound racing at Wimbledon. This petition is growing in numbers daily and goes to show the support our client has in relation to their proposals.

"As regards the ownership of Site 37, Wimbledon Greyhound Stadium, if Hume Consulting's proposal is favoured by the Council we shall protect an historic public amenity, namely Greyhound racing, for the people of London. In planning terms, Greyhound racing is an amenity which has taken place at the Plough Lane Site since 1928 and is under threat from all other proposals. Subject to the favourable consideration of our proposal to protect and develop Greyhound racing, our consortium is ready and willing to pay market value for Wimbledon Greyhound Track.

Whilst our consortium does not currently own the Wimbledon Greyhound Stadium site, we have submitted our proposed plans and supporting reports in good faith to comply with the "Call for Submissions" by Merton Council. We have done this in an effort to retain Greyhound racing at what is now the last such stadium in the capital city - all other sites have been closed and used purely for residential purposes. It is the belief within the greyhound industry that the loss of the most iconic stadium in the world would lead to a terminal decline in the wider Greyhound industry across the UK and Ireland, with the loss of upwards of 10,000 jobs.

The site is currently owned by GRA Limited, which was acquired by Risk Capital Partners in 2005. It has since emerged that the well known house builders, Galliard Homes, are partners of Risk Capital Partners and participated in the 2005 purchase. Irish Nationwide Building Society provided in excess of £50m to assist with the 2005 purchase, and this debt has now been transferred to the National Asset Management Agency ("NAMA") in Ireland. NAMA will not undertake the long term financing of a £100m mixed use scheme, with their stated aim to dispose of sites in general at market value upon receipt of planning.

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It is the widely held belief within the Greyhound industry and beyond, that Wimbledon Greyhound Stadium and the surrounding buildings on the site, have been purposely run down since the date of purchase in 2005 as a concerted effort to discontinue Greyhound racing at the site, in order to maximise the market value for ultimately residential/mixed use. This has already occurred at Oxford Greyhound Stadium, however, Oxford Council have made it public that they intend to object to the proposed residential planning application.

Our plans will deliver a world class stadium, squash club, 400 apartments and approximately 450 car parking spaces for the nearby NHS Hospital. We have the track record to deliver this scale of development, but also crucially in running and operating greyhound stadiums, the like of which Wimbledon could be proud of" (Hume Consulting Ltd, 26th August 2013)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G Brolly', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

George Brolly  
For:  
Hamilton Architects

Enc.