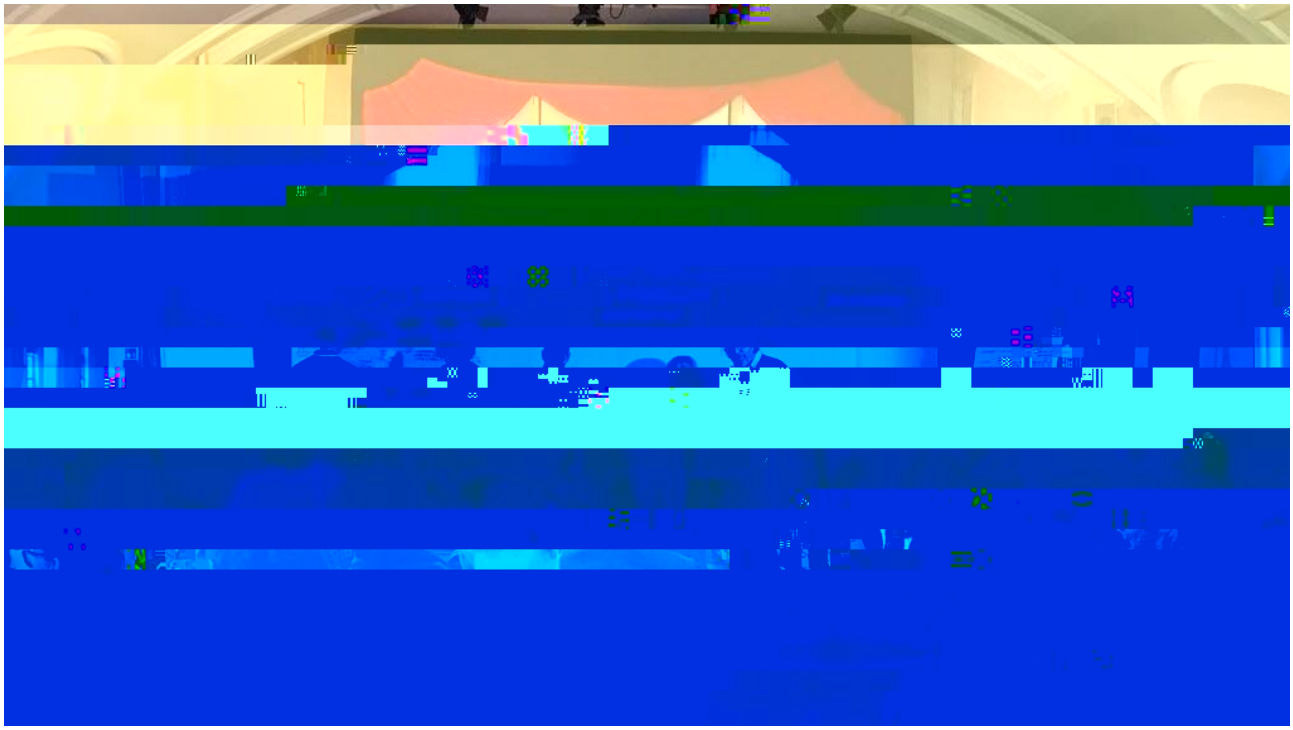
# Old Oak and Park Royal Community Charrette



## Overview

The Engineering Exchange and UCL's Transport Institute undertook a community planning charrette in December 2015. The event was run in partnership with the Grand Union Alliance (GUA), a community network responding to development planning in Old Oak and Park Royal; the London Tenants' Federation, a charitable consortium of tenants' federations and organisations from across 18 London boroughs and Just Space, a network of community groups, campaigners and independent organisations providing grassroots responses to London's planning strategy. The event attracted more than 50 participants from across the GUA network.

Planned regeneration for the 'Old Oak and Park Royal Opportunity Area', led by the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) set up by the Mayor of London, will involve major changes for the area over the next few decades. Proposals indicate the creation of 25,500 new homes and 65,000 new jobs across the two sites[1].

JTP, an architectural and planning firm, was hired to facilitate the day, which aimed to provide participants with the skills to respond to the OPDC Local Plan consultation process for the area and for the community to formulate its own vision for the area.

## Project detail

The Charrette took place on Saturday 5th December 2015, and was held within the catchment area of the OPDC Local Plan at the Harlesden Methodist Church in London. It was aimed at sharing local knowledge in the context of the proposed development. The day consisted of presentations from a range of stakeholders including community interest groups, and was structured around two participatory workshops.

[1] JTP (2016). 'Old Oak and Park Royal Community Charrette: Record of Activities.' (pp. 1). London, UK. Retrieved from http://www.engineering.ucl.ac.uk/engineering-exchange/files/2016/07/01136-summary_S.pdf

into account. For example, opportunities could have been given for participants to lead the direction of the conversations, rather than relying on moderators/facilitators. It could also be helpful to create a break-out space for those participants who don't feel their interests are being addressed in the dominant topics of discussion.

There were further concerns that the work from the day would have no real, long-term impact on the planning process adopted by the OPDC which is largely driven by what are seen to be very challenging development targets set by the London Plan for this Opportunity Area[4]. Opportunities for the GUA to provide on-going input were not seen to be thoroughly explored, and further comments on the content suggested some participants did not feel the day adequately built up the community's concerns into an alternative planning vision for the area.

In future, the EngEx will try to ensure that all parties are involved in organising and project planning as early as possible in the process, and to ensure aims and objectives are carefully considered and agreed by all parties. It is, however, important to find the right balance of pre-determination in the charrette model that is best served by being reactive, fluid, flexible and organic.

## Quotes from charrette participants

"In the future this is going to be the UK's most connected place."

"There is a lot of history in the area - it's important not to lose it!"

"I dream of an all-age, all-class community. Somewhere with permanence where everyone is a homeowner or rents from a housing association (no buy to let) - a whole community with the spiritual, makers, facilitators, educators and carers at its heart and lots of bike routes."[5]

[4] Greater London Authority (2015). 'Old Oak and Park Royal Opportunity Area Planning Framework.' London, UK. Retrieved from https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/organisations-we-work/old-oak-and-park-royal-development-corporation-opdc/planning-old-oa-4

[5] JTP (2016) 'Old Oak and Park Royal Community Charrette: Record of Activities.' (pp. 1). London, UK. Retrieved from http://www.engineering.ucl.ac.uk/engineering-exchange/files/2016/07/01136-summary_S.pdf