

6th

Notes Old Kent Road Community Forum meeting

Tuesday 08 September, 2015
Muslim Association of Nigeria Mosque, 365 Old Kent Road

CONTEXT

There have been 5 community forum meetings before this one. They have covered community priorities such as: character and history, local business, retail and transport. All of the discussions will inform the forthcoming area action plan for the Old Kent Road and have been found interesting and useful by the people who have attended. People have also taken the opportunity to make their own presentations (contact Suléy Muhidin at Southwark Council suley.muhidein@southwark.gov.uk for more information). The 8th September meeting was the first of 3 community forum meetings which discuss the vision for the area, consider the scale of change which might take place and explore options for regeneration and growth on the Old Kent Road, including the locations of homes, shops, workplace and other facilities, urban design and building heights, green infrastructure and the network of streets in the area.

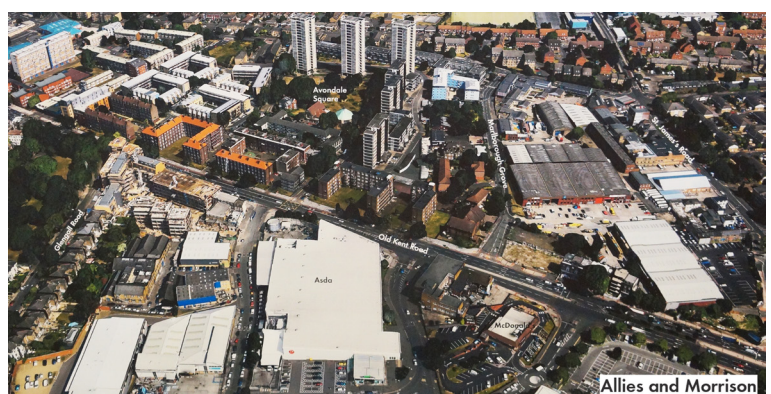
There are some more themes to cover before the council will be able to write a draft Area Action Plan for the Old Kent Road, and these will be scheduled for early in 2016. The themes still to come are community & faith, open spaces, and a jobs theme.

Old kent road from above.



WHO SPOKE

The council has appointed Allies and Morrison to complete a place making study about the Old Kent Road, to test regeneration options and inform the area action plan. Allies and Morrison are a firm of expert urban designers, regeneration consultants and planners. They showed maps of the area, explaining the geographical and historical significance of the Old Kent Road, and in a second presentation explained how it was possible to preserve some of the character of the area whilst at the same time creating many more homes and jobs, and spoke about the significance of the Old Kent Road for London as a whole. Each of the presentations was followed by a workshop/ breakout session with maps.



WHAT HAPPENED

The information that Allies and Morrison needed to find out, and which they are busy analysing for us to hear at the next Community Forum meeting on the 3rd November, was about the opportunities and constraints on new build and change in the Old Kent Road. We will hear more about the results of this from Allies and Morrison, and we will then see which areas could change more than others, and what links should be made between places, and how historic buildings will be preserved and their settings enhanced, and what happens if tube stations for a possible Bakerloo Line extension get built. Allies and Morrison also asked people at the meeting to agree on some Vision Statements, and these are also being analysed to be ready for the next meeting. A strong vision will be at the heart of the area action plan and it is important that local people and organisations have an opportunity to discuss and influence the vision.

People from all over the Old Kent Road area came along, as well as members from the mosque, and there was a lot of discussion during the workshop session, where members from the community were discussing how they think the space along the Old Kent Road could be better used – including sites for parks, green roofs, small and large shops, and schools. There are also some spaces and streets which some people already think work well and are attractive, and which should be preserved.



What you said about the meeting

- “ Good to talk with ‘not the usual suspects’ ”
- “ Actual positive, definite aspects ”
- “ Talking to other work/ shoppers – many similar sentiments about developing the Old Kent Road....The introduction was very useful ”
- “ The Monopoly card comparisons make me feel anxious ”
- “ Very useful...good session ”