



11 November 2014

HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Malcolm Beadle  
Senior Manager  
Land, Estates & Property Housing & Land Directorate  
Greater London Authority  
3rd Floor  
City Hall  
The Queens Walk  
London SE1 2AA

Dear Mr Beadle,

**Response to Crystal Palace National Sports Centre (NSC) Development Consultation**

I am pleased that, following representations that I and a number of other elected representatives made, the consultation period has been extended. There is a high volume of interest in this locally given the many active community groups in the area.

I would ask that consideration is given to the possibility of extending the deadline still further given that a number of local groups are in the process of gathering data and reports to suggest alternative options to those outlined in the survey. It is right that this process is subject to the widest possible community involvement so that any proposals brought forward are grounded in as much public support as possible. Whilst there remains uncertainty about the status and proposals of the ZhongRong Group it would, in my view, be sensible to extend the consultation to when the exclusivity agreement with ZhongRong ends. I also agree with the view already expressed that any revised scheme presented for the NSC site should be subject to further consultation.

I have received correspondence from constituents who are keen to know more about the evidence upon which the consultation options are based. They are concerned that the survey response form does not distinguish between options for locating a new school, the scale of downgrade of the NSC or the loss of a Regional Sports Centre.

Some of my constituents have also expressed concern that the concept options fail to illustrate the potential impact on full height diving, along with the loss of any 'heated' family pool area, and inadequately highlights the creation of a new access route which carves up the park to link to Crystal Place Park Road. There is also frustration over the format for collecting consultation feedback online, concern over the accuracy of the calculations regarding the use of the facilities and uncertainty about how the data from this will be analysed.

It is, in my view, absolutely critical that the integrity of the Crystal Palace Sports Centre, which is both iconic and continues to be used by many community groups in the area, is maintained, and that means retaining the running track but most particularly retaining a warm up track which, were it to be removed, would significantly limit the sort of events and activities that could take place at the centre.



Although the proposal for a new free school is not the sole focus of this consultation and this specific proposition will be subject to its own consultation process, it is important that all possible options for a site are explored given the variety of views that will exist locally about the practicalities of locating a school in the park.

I have also made clear to the Deputy Mayor for Housing Land and Property my view that the credibility of this consultation is weakened by the absence of a convincing budget to support implementation of the recommendations. This diminishes the confidence respondents can have that any of the proposals, or additional ideas, put forward can be seen through to implementation.

Yours sincerely,

Tessa Jowell

**Rt. Hon. Dame Tessa Jowell MP**