

HD.1

Presented to Merton's Sites and Policies Plan hearing for Main Matter 7 on Weds 22 Jan 14 on behalf of Hume Consulting Ltd

From: **Jonathan Weisgard** <Jonathan.Weisgard@london.gov.uk>
Date: 14 January 2014 10:39
Subject: RE: Wimbledon Stadium - letter from Sir Edward Lister
To: Jim Cremin <jim.cremin@racingpost.com>

Hi Jim,

Thanks for the enquiry. Please see here a line that should be of use.

All the best,

Jon

Deputy Mayor for Planning, Sir Edward Lister said: "The Mayor has always been of the opinion that Wimbledon Stadium should remain a greyhound racing venue. However, if this is not viable, he would accept the site being used for other stadia-based sport, as long as it is in line with strategic planning policy."

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From: Jim Cremin [<mailto:jim.cremin@racingpost.com>]
Sent: 13 January 2014 12:13
To: Jonathan Edwards; Jonathan Weisgard; Kate Woolgrove
Subject: Wimbledon Stadium - letter from Sir Edward Lister

Guys

I am a full time reporter on the Racing Post, a daily newspaper, and have picked up a copy of the letter (attached) from Sir Edward Lister to the pending planning inquiry into the plan for Wimbledon Stadium (starts Wednesday week)..

There is a definite change in tone as in previous December correspondence to the Inspector, there was specific greyhound retention language used.

I just wonder if you can elaborate on the background. Presumably Galliards, the owners of the site, are claiming that greyhound racing is not viable, yet the track is still attracting excellent crowds despite a lack of investment, The plan put forward by Paschal Taggart for a new greyhound stadium looks highly exciting and a positive for the entire capital.

Edward Lister is now saying "while the retention of a greyhound stadium site use at the site would be ideal, the intensification of a sporting use at the site in form of other financially viable stadia uses, where feasible, would ultimately be acceptable in strategic planning terms."

Could you give us some further thoughts/background as to his and the general thinking of the Mayor's Office on the issue.

Many thanks

Jim
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