

Mayor's Office

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Our ref: 1573b/02
Your ref: 2011/0898
Date: 30 October 2012

David Scourfield

Development Management
Waltham Forest Council
Sycamore House
Town Hall Complex
Forest Road
Walthamstow
LONDON E17 4JG

Dear Mr Scourfield,

Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended); Greater London Authority Acts 1999 and 2007; Town & Country Planning (Mayor of London) Order 2008 The former Walthamstow Greyhound Stadium site

I refer to your letter of 18 October 2012 informing me that Waltham Forest Council is minded to grant planning permission for the above planning application. I refer you also to the notice that was issued on 24 October 2012 under the provisions of article 5(1)(b)(i) of the above Order.

Having now considered a report on this case I am content to allow Waltham Forest Council to determine the case itself, subject to any action that the Secretary of State may take, and do not therefore wish to direct refusal or to take over the application for my own determination.

I share the sadness of many about the demise of dog racing from this historic corner of London. However, I believe this proposal will provide a major boost for Walthamstow, creating new jobs and new homes, many of which will be affordable and attract desperately needed new investment into the area.

Whilst no viable plan has been put forward to bring racing back I am pleased the new development will preserve many of the historic elements of the stadium including a sprint circuit along the route of the old track. In addition a huge £2 million contribution to the surrounding community has been secured from the developer which will deliver vastly improved local sports and leisure facilities for generations of east Londoners to enjoy.

With regard to the BMX facility detailed plans for its implementation and management have yet to emerge and I would ask the applicant and the local authority to consider these carefully including the role they play in meeting local community and leisure needs. Should these need to change over time I would expect both the local authority and the applicant to review this provision.

The application represents EIA development for the purposes of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011. I have taken the environmental information made available to date into consideration in formulating my decision.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Boris Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Boris Johnson
Mayor of London

cc Jennette Arnold, London Assembly Constituency Member
Nicky Gavron, Chair of London Assembly Planning Committee
Ian McNally & John Pierce, DCLG
Alex Williams, TfL