

Isle of Dogs Neighbourhood Planning Forum – Vision Statement

Version 1 Public 16th September 2016

This is a Strawman document which means it is a set of idea to generate discussion rather than a final document. The final version of the vision statement will be agreed in a public vote in October. Our Neighbourhood Plan Policies and Recommendations will be based on the vision statement and will describe how we will deliver the vision. Any suggestions, amendments, deletions or additions should be sent by email to: isleofdogsnpf@gmail.com

Strawman Version of Vision Statement

“A liveable environment in which our diverse community can work, rest and play”

We the people of the Isle of Dogs believe that our island is a great place to live and work, but it is undergoing enormous change. We have come together to form a Neighbourhood Planning Forum for the Isle of Dogs to work collectively to produce policies which will guide the future development of our area.

The Isle of Dogs is more than just a dormitory for Canary Wharf. It should be a destination in its own right, with everything people need on a daily basis within walking distance, and where we can imagine living at all stages of our lives.

Our vision is of a relaxed, quiet, safe and secure home, that has the best of London on its doorstep, but uses its island location to create something unique and special. We want to maximise enjoyment of our very special access to the river and docks, and enhance our green spaces. Our plans should work equally well for all residents regardless of age, income or other characteristics, and at any time of the day or night. We need to plan for the whole area to work together seamlessly.

Given the enormous scale of development making our island the tallest and most densely packed residential area in western Europe, we need a Plan that will ensure a high quality of life for all residents and workers: both those already here and those still to come, with any re-development plans for existing homes fully involving the communities who live there, empowering them to make active choices about their future.

Core to this is the need for proposed developments that exceed the London Plan’s maximum recommended density only to be permitted after all the infrastructure and services needed to support them and all the other developments nearby have been specifically identified and guaranteed. Otherwise our island will become un-liveable: contrary to the interests of existing and prospective residents, of local businesses and their workers, and of developers.

The Isle of Dogs is a unique place requiring unique solutions, and we have the following key objectives:

1. Sustainable development that works for those already here, as well as for future residents and workers.

2. Infrastructure that is planned and delivered in advance of development, and is sized to cope with all future likely development, and is not delivered incrementally and in isolation.
3. Policies that address the construction process as well as afterwards.
4. A safe and secure environment which works for all age groups who live and work in our area.
5. A cohesive community that brings people together from across the island.
6. Indoor and outdoor spaces for people to enjoy, which are open to the public to use, including space where children can play and everyone can relax.
7. An environment that works for everybody at different stages of their life; that works equally well for the disabled, the young and the old; and caters to the different interests we have.
8. Ensuring that everything people need is within safe walking distance.
9. Quick, efficient and free-flowing transport options – whether cycling, walking, buses, DLR, boats or cars – all working together.
10. Affordability of homes, living, businesses and leisure has to be factored in at every stage.
11. A healthy, clean, and relaxed environment where it is easy and safe to exercise.
12. A mixture of different types of development: not just residential, but also offices, small businesses, creative spaces and independent retailers.
13. Exploit the best of new technologies to make our lives easier and safer especially some of the new Smart Cities technology out there and ensure we have the networks to support growth.
14. Our Plan should work equally well at any time of the day or night, and on any day of the week.
15. When proposals come forward to replace existing residential buildings, existing residents should be fully involved in the decision-making process, with their rights protected, ensuring they have real choice and the ability to stay in their area.
16. Preservation of the assets we already have, including our docks, river access, historic buildings, green spaces, play areas and community facilities.
17. Plan for the long term delivery and execution of our vision once the Neighbourhood Plan has been delivered, which may include new forms of governance.
18. Work closely with neighbouring Forums to ensure our plans are synchronised.
19. Beauty In My Backyard (BIMBY): not anti-development (NIMBY).
20. Work collectively with Tower Hamlets Council, the GLA, Transport for London, developers and other stakeholders to deliver our vision for the long term. It is in all of our best long term interests that the Island continues to function.

Public Contributions to Vision Statement as at 16th September

List of Vision Statements Contributions from three public meetings and discussions on social media (Facebook & Streetlife.com) discussions. We asked people to contribute ideas for our vision statement.

St Johns Community centre Tuesday 14th June

1. Creating cohesive communities
2. Family homes
3. Not just 50 storey
4. Development for the people
5. Estate regeneration must deliver more affordable homes
6. Green & clean
7. Place & space for people
8. Building more homes for all groups
9. Building communities
10. A home for affordable creative spaces (theatre, dance, music, visual arts, crafts, multi-media & technology)
11. Social housing to be truly affordable
12. Education spaces from crèche to adult education
13. Wildlife, greening, enhancing natural environment
14. Infrastructure before construction
15. Community needs before developers greed
16. Maximise the water
17. Minimise traffic
18. Pedestrian friendly
19. Safe & secure
20. Harmonising traffic & transport
21. Child, young & old friendly environment
22. Training & development
23. Respect for & preservation of unique heritage
24. Support cultural arts
25. Preserving cultural arts
26. Preserving social housing
27. Accessibility step free
28. Healthy island, healthy homes
29. Parish council lead in
30. Small business friendly
31. Meeting community needs at each life stage
32. What would like to add?

Alpha Grove Community Centre 7th July 7pm

1. Any replacement of existing buildings;
 - a. Like for like
 - b. Respect leaseholder rights
 - c. Respecting rights of existing residents
2. Road infrastructure planned
3. Public transport planning
4. Protecting docks and river access
5. Spatial planning (under and over ground)
6. Enhanced primary care facilities
7. Enhanced internet & phone connectivity
8. Homes for elderly
9. Water & sewage capacity
10. Green space protection guarantee
11. Thames riverside walkway completion
12. Use River Thames more - personal transport
13. Construction traffic moved to the river
14. Emergency services access & future requirements
15. Food courts
16. Encouraging mixed use and local people involvement in business development
17. Really good youth facilities
18. Real community participation that benefits existing communities
19. Nightlife is also important
20. Vision for after hours and night time
21. Vision for cultural activities
22. Social & cultural activities
23. Community focussed areas
24. Greening barren sites
25. Walking routes & cyclists
26. Electric car spaces

Canary Wharf Ideas Store 9th July 3pm

1. Flood protection
2. New business start-up space
3. Affordable retail space
4. Patchwork quilt
5. Protecting Mudchute Farm & Allotments
6. Community space
7. Family housing
8. Life development

9. Transport around the island
10. Importance of history – look with FOIHT at earlier battles and lessons learnt

Facebook Discussion – Canary Wharf & Isle of Dogs Residents Group 21st June

Intro

Last Tuesday we started writing the vision statement for the Isle of Dogs Neighbourhood Plan. As the vision has to be a collective statement from all residents we asked people at St Johns what they thought should be included, the list below are the 31 ideas we collected on the night, would you like to add to the list or think some are more important than others? Add comments below. Once we have a fuller list we will try and summarise into one statement and share again online & in meetings until people are happy it is a good summary

Responses

I think you somewhat have it in there, but some link up between development and increasing DLR capacity, speed, and frequency is urgently needed. The morning commute is brutal...

I don't know if there's any scope to bolster capacity at Bank as part of the planned upgrades there to the Northern line?

I also wonder if there's scope for another Thames Clipper stop (i.e. on the RB1 service) - but on the east of the Island, perhaps near all that new development at Blackwall? It might also support commuters from Wood Wharf, once that is built too.

More amenities are a must. A priority.

More provisions for our young people for social activities. Community led so they feel part of the area and not annexed from it for so called 'anti-social behaviour'. Things ranging from free or truly affordable...See more

More activities and environments for teenagers.

with a structure to provide role models.

Back to family values with inclusion for all cultures.

Free flowing and efficient transport. That's keeping the roads clear and open and moving for cars, buses and bikes, with appropriate speed limits in place and no impediments like roadworks, closures or main road speed bumps. Keeping pedestrians separate and safe by having appropriate crossings. Keeping children safe with education about road safety.

Buses that don't follow each other around the Island in 3's

Agreed. Keeping traffic flowing and spread out so it doesn't feel like there is "so much traffic" all the time.

Shops, cafes, restaurants – a true community 'High Street' with affordable shops.

Reinstate the Docklands minibuses.

I second that, they were a valuable community asset

More piers on the Island so the river can be used more.

Reduced prices for residents could help, as well

Petrol station !!! I've heard the one at asda will go and we are left without !!

We won't need one soon if they ban cars :-) ha ha.

Ha ha I didn't think of that !! Wouldn't surprise me !!!

More support and services for our local Post Offices

Address the dog poo situation and increase dog wardens, park attendance

Open the public toilets in Manchester Road

More and well maintained places to play. Education is as much about what happens at home- most of our homes have no garden and our parks in various states of disrepair. Let the children play!!

Improved air quality, reduced traffic esp. heavy goods vehicles, clean and safe parks, waterways free from rubbish

Extend the Thames path on the West side as it stops around Bellgate place.

- Keep the sports infrastructure.

- Small businesses, no chains.

It stops around Bellgate place because of Klein's - if they sell up then it would most likely mean more high rise developments... Not a good thing!

Thanks for the clarification, I wasn't sure about the north side of Bellgate place; it's a pity to have to walk that stretch on the road in this area.

yeah - true, be nice to be able to go all the way along but sometimes it's better the devil you know.

Tall buildings shall be decent looking: the Novotel and the blocks just south of Pan Peninsula are just Lego-like looking and hideous.

Drastically improve DLR services during rush hours.

A Multi-purpose generational Community Centre could serve as a Day Club for the Elderly; After School Club for School Children; Youth Club at night for Youngsters; Art, Dance and Music club; a hub for small businesses and social enterprises; Local Char...See more

Having some DLR services starting from the unused Mudchute platform 3 would be very helpful. They all come through full from Lewisham ever since the tunnel under the river opened.

Undoubtedly the best suggestion!!

Or perhaps we could shut all the tunnels, stop any bridges being built and declare a Republic of the Isle of Dogs. Ha ha. :-)

As population in the area increases public health sites/services need to be monitored- I've had to wait three weeks for a GP appt a few times. NHS dental appointments availability etc Walk-in centre great but often waiting a good couple of hours...not ...See more

Infrastructure suitable to meet the needs of all residents and businesses.

Affordable business opportunities for local people.

So many empty shop premises left idle where someone could start a new venture to benefit the community if rates were not so stupidly unaffordable.

Streetlife.com discussion 22nd June

32. energy efficient infrastructure eg. Electric charging points should be included in all new developments and on the limited street parking available. I also think homes should have solar panel installed and the energy captured should be stored on high capacity batteries eg like tesla Powerwall. Probably too expensive now but at some point this will pay off especially if a network can be created using the same technology across all developments including existing ones.

33. Smart / connected city so things like connected street lights, Wifi in public places, better traffic information at bus stops etc.

33. Promote high speed broadband rollout.

I'm assuming maximising water point 16 would include things like river taxi eg like a ferry service between Canary Wharf East and North Greenwich West as well as services on millwall dock to cross rail; floating river parks; and potentially more recreational activities?

Some initial thoughts and will let you know if more come to mind.

Thank you for posting this.

for any new construction I think cycling infrastructure should be on that list. It aligns with the latest mayoral plan for the next cycling city, and certainly when in the co structuring phase it is far more cost effective to consider cycling infrastructure in the design stages than try and 'add' it in at a later date.

Slightly wider pavements with a separate marked area for footpath and cycling would be cost effective to implement with new construction

Small business friendly needs to include a focus on small, independent, retail businesses as well as office/home based service industry. We don't just need chain shops grouped in/around Canary Wharf itself. We don't need more Tesco Expresses but we do need a variety of proper shops - hardware, greengrocers, bakers, craft, etc. These are coming back to some of the other areas of London that see themselves as villages, so why not round here?

I agree - the availability of commercial properties for small businesses needs to be included.

Transport - obviously!

Infrastructure- sewerage is a recurring issue on the island!

Streetlife.com Discussion June 2016

<https://www.streetlife.com/conversation/2qmrgg4l3gc67/>

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Online responses

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