

Sent via email



Unmesh Desai AM  
Assembly Member for City and East

12<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Dear Jules,

I've been contacted by several constituents who are concerned that the deadline for responses to the GLA consultation on the amended Bishopsgate Goodsyrd application is next Wednesday 18th December, and many local people and businesses are not aware of this.

A [search on social media](#) shows that it has barely been mentioned; the applicant has [not tweeted about](#) it nor has the @LDN\_gov account. In my experience, local authorities often publicise major applications and consultations on their website and on social media, but in this instance it is hard to find the right information about when and how to respond to the consultation. Could you confirm that notices have been put up around the site, and that letters have been sent to addresses nearby, advising them of the application and the consultation?

The "[public hearing](#)" page for [The Bishopsgate Goodsyrd](#) is mostly about the application and scheduled hearing from 2015-16, and you would have to scroll through to the bottom to get details about the amended application and how to respond to the consultation. There is also little explanation about the call-in process for the application, something that many constituents have been confused about. Although the application has been significantly changed, it is not a "new" application - a common misconception I've encountered - and therefore it remains called-in by the Mayor rather than being a decision for Hackney and Tower Hamlets to make.

As you will know, a [change.org](#) petition back in 2015 regarding this scheme attracted more than 10,000 signatures, and there is considerable local interest in the applicaion. It is one of the most significant planning applications we will have in London for many years, on a very central brownfield site with important heritage assets, and I'm sure you'll agree with me that ensuring there is proper consultation, transparency and clarity about the process is vital to its success, in the Mayor's interests (especially if a public hearing and determination is made in the next six months) and for the benefit of all Londoners.

So I would ask that you consider extending the deadline for the consultation until mid January, and publicising this deadline on the GLA website and through social media channels, so that more residents and businesses are aware of the application and can properly respond after the Christmas period with their support or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Unmesh Desai". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

**Unmesh Desai AM**

London Assembly Member for Barking and Dagenham, City of London, Newham and Tower Hamlets

Cc Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London.