

TULIP SIDDIQ MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

June 14th 2021

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to formally endorse Brent Council's bid to the Levelling Up Fund for the regeneration of the Carlton and Granville centres.

The buildings are a vital component of South Kilburn's in providing community infrastructure, as part of the long term regeneration of the area. I support Brent's proposals to secure the long-term future of the buildings whilst retaining their character and heritage.

Brent has committed £6.8m to the project, with a further £2m from the community based local organisation, the South Kilburn Trust. The project received planning permission in January 2020, and won two awards at the New London Architecture Awards 2019.

The buildings have been identified as "under-utilised but provided opportunity for reinvigoration" and it is clear that the Council's proposals address this by providing:

- Improvements to existing buildings and outdoor amenity areas such as community gardens and cycle storage.
- Enhanced community space - 2 community halls, meeting rooms, kitchen, event space
- Better facilities for the Granville Plus Nursery School and Brent's Family Wellbeing Centre, including improved SEN and adult training facilities.
- An increase of over 500m² of affordable workspace.
- 18 Council homes for South Kilburn tenants.

I support Brent Council's extensive community engagement which ensured the scheme was designed collaboratively. A 'Key Stakeholder Group' was formed in 2016 and has met over 25 times since. The group has been a vital way of ensuring collective support, and has participated in activities such as the procurement of the design team. This was supplemented further by the architects hosting 20 1:1 workshops with site users to better understand their needs in the future buildings. Five community consultations and workshops were held with over 150 people attending. It is clear that community consultation and engagement has been central to this project.

With the local employment rate below the borough and national average, I fully support the intention to increase the number of local people in jobs by providing another 500m² of affordable workspace. The project builds on an already successful Enterprise Hub run by the South Kilburn Trust who provide heavily discounted rates to users and offer free business support. Prior to Covid-19, the Hub was operating at full occupancy with an extensive waiting list. Since the Enterprise Hub opened in 2018, the Trust have demonstrably supported 24 businesses to grow

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and helped create 27 new jobs.

I look forward to seeing the project progress and for the community to enjoy all the benefits of this high quality mixed use development. I hope that Ministers recognise the value in providing further public investment by directing Levelling Up Fund contributions to the regeneration of the Carlton and Granville buildings.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tulip".

Tulip Siddiq MP
Member of Parliament for Hampstead and Kilburn