

CHAIRMAN MEETS THE MAYOR

Report by Trevor Mulligan, 14 July 2011

Wands chairman Gary Hillman spoke today about his meeting this week with Boris Johnson, Mayor of London.

"It was basically an evening do saying well done to people who do voluntary work for their communities in the London boroughs of Bromley and Bexley", Gary told me.

He continued, "It was the ideal opportunity for me to involve the new architects for the Sandy Lane Project with the community and to take advantage of some networking."

When I asked about the Mayor's presence, Gary said, "The planners and I found the occasion ideally appropriate to build up the support and awareness within City Hall for the new ground development. Fortunately for us, the Mayor was around at City Hall for this function and was ready to hear what we had to say, which is very encouraging."

Gary went on to tell me that he has decided to secure the services of architect company Pellings (www.pellings.co.uk) for the new ground development work.

"We chose Pellings because they believe wholeheartedly in the overall project and their credentials suit our way of thinking." Gary said, continuing, "Pellings also have relationships with hotels and leisure chains and have been very successful with similar projects in the area. These include the Bromley college extension on green belt land, a new Travelodge hotel in Bromley and a new hotel and residential development in Bexleyheath to name just a few positives."



Boris Johnson (left) and Gary Hillman enjoy the Sandy Lane discussion this week.

As well as the anticipated new football stadium, which will see Cray Wanderers return to the area of their formation of over 150 years ago, there's also the possibility of a brand new hotel build on the same site which will be adjacent to the football

ground. The approval of planning permission for the stadium will mean a solid future for London's oldest association football club, whilst the go ahead to build the hotel will result in the creation of many new jobs and the regeneration of the area as a whole.