

Dear Future Merton Team,

In reference to your recent communication dated 16th January, please find attached a petition, signed by residents of Hammond Avenue in relation to our concerns regarding the draft proposed plans that Circle Housing are in the process of submitting.

We did not receive a response from Merton regarding this, so would appreciate it if you could kindly follow up accordingly and similarly enhance further your plan guidance with reference to the proposed layout and building heights. At present, it appears that not enough consideration has been taken regarding our concerns and similarly incorporating these concerns to ensure they are addressed in your plan guidance.

As you can appreciate, Hammond Avenue consists of mostly one storey bungalows, so the new plans are deeply concerning for us, as they include the removal of the road (Clay Avenue) behind us and propose to build taller 4/5 storey buildings closer to our homes, which will leave us with no privacy whatsoever. (We are already forced to keep our rear curtains drawn with the current 3 storey buildings at the rear of our properties, so under these new proposals, it will worsen the situation for us all). A few of the residents also went to voice concerns at the evening sessions that Circle Housing held at the local school (St Marks Academy), but with no avail, as the architects/planning team were quite dismissive of our concerns and suggestions for amendments. This is very disheartening, as there is plenty of scope for them to amend the designs to avoid causing upset and imposing on anyone's privacy.

I believe it was approximately page 80 in the plan guidance that has specific reference to building heights being, ie *buildings across the estate must be of a height similar and harmonious to surrounding residential areas to contribute to achieving consistency with the surrounding character*" and *"when viewed from outside the estate, taller buildings must not be seen to dominate the landscape"*. The current designs are not taking any of this into consideration, which is very worrying, as there is plenty of scope for the designs to be amended and similarly the plan guidance needs to be reviewed to ensure that this is being addressed, as at present the guidance relating to the height and layout appears to be very generic.

A copy of the attached petition was also sent to :

[REDACTED]

Mr Chris Lee
Environment and Regeneration Department
London Borough of Merton
Merton Civic Centre
London Road
Morden
SM4 5DX

Please kindly confirm receipt.

Many Thanks
Kind Regards

[REDACTED]