

10.12.16. Dear Future Merton Team, and Secretary of State (ENVIRONMENT)

I would be pleased to take this opportunity to put forward comments, based on my unique experience of life here on High Path Estate, where I've resided since [redacted]. I would say that it is the variety and character of the buildings that give this area a quality which the residents, especially the younger folk, benefit from in their individual approaches to everyday living. This is a precious gift and should be maintained, for future generations; therefore the best way forward is to demolish the three ugly high rise blocks, to build, as proposed on the area behind the Old Lamp Works, and to house families in available houses elsewhere, in Merton, leaving new flats on the estate for use of single people, or older couples on their own. I suggest Rowell House is left alone, as this suits families.

As for the older flats, they were built to last, and will continue to provide solid weathproof homes for at least another 1/4 century, so why demolish? The playground and football pitch are excellent as they are, and I would say you might easily re-surface the public paths and roads through the estate, leaving precious trees alone. Sheds and garages could be removed!

[redacted], needs some attention, eg. the stair way, and damp proofing of walls to exterior but basically, again, the homes are solid and sound enough to give at least 25 years more habitation. Minor improvements to surrounding areas could be undertaken and more trees put in to give shade and interesting outlook from our windows.

Across the road, there are blocks which could be improved on but basically are sound, because they offer privacy and more sheltered outlooks than the proposed new flats. I would be surprised to hear of many people wishing to leave - especially Merton Place which looks Eastward, offering a historic perspective rather than the plans which Circle Housing have put on the table, which are quite frankly boring, dull, and soul-less, and biased towards [ethnicity]. Therefore, I think the entire plan should be scrapped.

I recommend a good environmental agency (eg Greenpeace), to collaborate with a more open-minded think tank like Kevin McCloud, to investigate some Dutch housing estates, using new technologies eg split-level housing or spirals. Also, why use bricks? There are new materials now. Think ahead!

Merton should try to retain its reputation and find a better plan. Finally, the narrow High Path is not relevant to [redacted]. I suggest Hopmore Estate instead.

Yours Sincerely [redacted]

ps. I previously supplied comments regarding Nelson Youth Park, designed and built by local youth, to include skateboard facility, a wall for squash, and artistic displays and water sports for children and pets.

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As for the older flats, they were built to last, and will continue to provide solid weathproof homes for at least another 1/2 century, so why The playground and football pitch are excellent as they are, and I would say you might easily re-surface the public paths and roads through the estate, leaving precious trees alone. Sheds and garages could be removed! [redacted] needs some attention, eg the stair way, and damp proofing of walls to exterior but basically, again, the homes are solid and sound enough to give at least 25 years more habitation. Minor improvements to surrounding areas could be undertaken and more trees put in to give shade and interesting outlook from our windows.

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Finally, the name High Path is not relevant to [redacted]. I suggest Hopmore Estate instead.

P.S. I wish to see a Nelson Youth Park - designed and built by local youth.

to include skateboard facilities, a wall for painting friezes, or playing squash,
and water sprinks for children and pets.