Responses to Draft EMOSS Public Consultation

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| 1     | Stella Foster | stella@threekatz.freeserve.co.uk | 1. Why were the residents of the Longthornton ward not directly consulted on EMOSS?  
2. Why is the Rowan High School site being developed when there are other sites in the area?  
3. There is a need for more health care services in the area.  
4. Most of the land on Rowan High School should be kept as open space. The consultee does not support the provision of nature conservation in the area. | 1. Targeted Consultation was undertaken on EMOSS and included residents' associations, sports clubs, friends groups, amenity societies and community organisations within East Mitcham. This followed the approach to consultation on MOSS. Local residents in proximity to the Rowan and Brenley sites will be consulted on the draft planning briefs in August.  
2. The Rowan High School site has been declared surplus to educational requirements and will be sold by the Council in 2004.  
3. Comments noted. The draft Rowan High School planning brief requires the dedication of an area of the site to facilitate the provision of a health care facility on this site.  
4. The Council's priority is to provide new public open space on this site but some development on the site is required to fund the creation and maintenance of the open space.  
Figure 4.1 of the Second Deposit Draft UDP identifies that a small portion of the Rowan High Site falls within an area of the borough beyond 1.0km of any accessible natural greenspace. The | 1-4 No changes to EMOSS as a result of these comments. |
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| 2     | Cecile Curtis| Vice Chair, Eastfields Residents Association | Record of Telephone Conversation received Thursday 17/7/03  
1. Over the years there has been a noticeable decline in the provision of facilities within local open spaces due to vandalism. Security measures should be put in place to prevent this. | 1. Comments noted | 1. No change to EMOSS as a result of these comments. |
1. Recommend amendments to paragraphs 1.1 and 7.1.6 on the understanding that Brenley Playing Field is technically required for educational uses, with some flexibility in how it is provided.

2. Paragraph 2.0.4 (7) sets out the deficiencies for each sport. Is this borough wide or specific to East Mitcham? If East Mitcham is underserved compared to the other parts of the borough, are the other areas over served or is this a real deficiency?

3. Para 3.28 the GLA’s policies to promote sustainable design and construction are inappropriate for the open space strategy.

4. Para 4.1.2 is it necessary to compare East Mitcham with Wimbledon Village in terms of deprivation statistics?

5. Section 5, the EMOSS report does not provide any useful conclusions from the Needs Survey.

6. Section 7, seek the clarification in text in 7.1.9 to make clear the revised layout of Brenley playing field is not dependant upon the proposals on the Westminster City Sports Ground being progressed.

7. Para 7.1.12 refers to there being a quantitative loss of sports

1. Recommended amendments to paragraphs 1.1 and 7.1.6 on the understanding that Brenley Playing Field is technically required for educational uses, with some flexibility in how it is provided.

2. The specific deficiencies for each sport identified by MOSS relate to the borough as a whole. MOSS examined the provision of playing pitches across the borough and identified that the highest concentration of pitches are found in the west of the borough. The Council will be preparing a Playing Pitch Assessment, later in the year which will examine the provision of playing pitches at a more local level.

3. Agree, para’s 3.2.8 and 3.2.9 are inappropriate for the East Mitcham Open Space and Recreation Strategy.

4. The statistics quoted in Section 4.1 and particularly 4.1.2 have been extracted from Merton’s Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy. The findings of Merton’s Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy quoted in EMOSS have been re-examined and amended where necessary for accuracy.

5. Comments noted. The details of the Open Space Needs Survey are more appropriate for the Merton Open Space Strategy.

6. Comments noted

1. Amend para 1.2 to state “Brenley Playing Field has ceased to be used by local schools and is now the subject of review. The Council is seeking to adopt alternative strategies for the use of the land with a view to maximising the benefit to the wider community while retaining open space and sport facilities in East Mitcham”

2. Delete Para 2.1.4 (7) regarding the specific deficiencies for each sport.

At the end of para 2.1.4 (7) add the following sentence "The Council will shortly be preparing a Playing Pitch Assessment as part of the Merton Open Space Strategy. This will examine the provision and distribution of playing pitches at a more local level".

3. Delete para’s 3.2.8 and 3.2.9

4. Section 4.0-4.1 has been reviewed and amended to more accurately reflect the statistics from Merton’s Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy.

5. Delete para 5.0.8

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29 September 2003
pitches at Rowan. However the open space at Rowan is not currently available to the public as it is queried whether this open space was included in the MOSS study as open space provision. However, the Rowan site does not fit within Sport England’s criteria for Playing Pitch Assessments.

8. The provision of cemetery use on the Rowan site has been examined as part of the preparation of EMOSS and it was determined that although there may be a commercial demand for additional burial space there is not a real demand or need for additional burial space within the Borough.

9. Partially agreed, Para’s 8.2.12 and 8.2.13 are more appropriate for the planning briefs and should be deleted from EMOSS.

10. Agreed, the Rowan High School planning brief identifies the Council’s aspiration that the site be developed as a Zero (Fossil Fuel) Emission Development.

11. Partially agreed, Para’s 8.2.12 and 8.2.13 are more appropriate for the planning briefs and should be deleted from EMOSS.

12. Partially agreed, Para’s 8.2.12 and 8.2.13 are more appropriate for the planning briefs and should be deleted from EMOSS.

6. Insert the following sentence at the end of para 2.2.12 “ This revised site layout is not dependant on the provision of playing pitches on the Westminster City Sports Ground”.

7. No change to para 7.1.12

8. No change to EMOSS

9. Delete para’s 8.2.12 and 8.2.13

10. No change to EMOSS

11. Add the following to the end of Para 2.4.3 “Figure 4.1 of the Second Deposit Draft UDP identifies that a small portion of the Rowan High Site falls within an area of the borough beyond 1.0km of any accessible natural greenspace. The provision of a nature conservation area within the public local park on this site could contribute to remedying this deficiency.”
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| 4     | Peter Durrans | Sport England London Region PO Box 480 Crystal Palace National Sports Centre London SE19 2BQ | 1. Sport England has set out the current use of the Westminster City Sports Ground and in light of this states that the three pitches currently marked out would appear to be used already at close to their capacity during the winter months. During the summer months the grounds appear to have less use.  
2. It appears that the Westminster ground could accommodate an ATP in addition to the existing grass pitches, and this would provide the main opportunity to increase community use significantly, particularly if it was floodlit. Summer use for cricket may also offer some potential.  
3. The feasibility of increasing community use and pitch capacity at Westminster City Sports Ground needs to be fully investigated taking into account existing users.  
4. EMOSS acknowledges that the proposed loss of Brenley Playing Field and Rowan High School sites “would result in a quantitative loss of private sports pitches within the area”. It is also the case that none of the revised proposals in EMOSS involve replacing the area of playing fields that would be lost at these sites, although there are other benefits in terms of public open space provision.                                                                 | 1-3.5. Comments noted. The Council is in the process of preparing a Playing Pitch Assessment which will examine these matters raised by Sport England in detail.  
4. The Council does not consider that Brenely Playing Field would be referable to Sport England on the basis that it hasn't been used as a playing pitch for over 5 years. Should it be determined that playing pitches are required on the Rowan High School site these will be provided within the public local park, although this is not the Council's preferred option.                                                                 | 1-5 No change to EMOSS.                                                                                   |
The planning applications for the ATP’s at the two PFI High School sites, with secured community use, were supported by Sport England as they represent sufficient benefit to the development of sport to compensate for the loss of playing fields at those sites.

5. Sport England reiterates their policy on planning applications for development on playing fields and states that they would object to the proposal unless one of five specific circumstances applies.

Sport England has stated that they are not yet convinced by the contents of EMOSS that the development proposals for Rowan and Brenley actually satisfy the requirements of any of the exceptions in their policy.

Whilst the benefits of increased access to public open space is recognised, further evidence would be helpful concerning the sports benefits that would arise from the EMOSS strategic approach to open space provision. In particular, the feasibility of increasing community use and pitch capacity at Westminster City Sports Ground.