

We have already sent through a copy of a petition signed by residents of Hammond Avenue, in relation to concerns over the height of the proposed buildings. I believe you already have a copy of this, but just wanted to emphasize the below as well: (I have re-attached just in case).

- Whilst Circle housing mentioned that they will be reducing the height of one of the buildings from a 5 storey to a 4 storey, this does not address our concerns. 4 storey buildings at the rear of our properties is not keeping in line with existing surroundings (particularly as we mostly consist of 1 storey bungalows). The last thing we would want is to be surrounded by unsightly blocks, reducing our privacy as well as unsightly views. Additionally, the designs online still reflect 5 storey buildings as well.
- They have still failed in their promises as quoted in 2014 correspondence to "consult with residents and consider their interests at all times and address concerns fairly". We requested to meet with circle housing to discuss these concerns and were advised that only a few of us from Hammond Avenue could attend, as there was only one member of the design team available on a weekend. Post this discussion, they advised that they felt that they had a "fair" hearing. This was not the case, as we were simply told that it was not possible to reduce the height of the buildings any further and additionally, it would have been beneficial to have an inclusive session for all residents from Hammond Avenue. All prior consultations were not marketed very well and when we received correspondence about the consultation dates last year, one of the dates had already passed. More recently they have sent out a notification about the Eastfields Master plan, however even within this leaflet, the position of Hammond Avenue has been covered by a text box, making it difficult to even see the current design in relation to Hammond Avenue.
- Based on older designs and the actual layout of the estate, there is plenty of scope to amend the designs, to re-position the taller blocks facing the cemetery side for example (whilst still keeping in line with the views "down the linear park"/designs that they had wanted to achieve). Instead they have chosen to create an unsightly design that will undoubtedly cause a great amount of distress to Hammond Avenue residents. It is rather frustrating that the original designs were actually better and despite all of the residents taking time out to provide feedback as part of the lengthy feedback form submitted to Merton Council, it appears that our concerns were not taken into consideration and in actual fact, the designs were worsened and amended further, raising even more concerns.
- Whilst we are in agreement that the regeneration should take place, it is important that Circle Housing work with local residents (and not just circle residents). Additionally perhaps some additional clarity and guidance from Merton Council could help to ensure that our concerns are addressed and that the designs are kept in line with existing surroundings. Currently it appears that the guidance is rather vague and hence it is difficult to challenge Circle housing, without support from the local council. It is still possible to create a design with the same number of homes, but moving the taller blocks to another side of the estate. This is ultimately our main request, however Circle have refused to adjust the design layout. (The justification does not appear to make

sense, as on multiple occasions Circle have advised that the building heights are proposed by the Mayor's office, in relation to new housing). This appears to be contradictory however, as Sadiq Khan's manifesto promised "Stronger" polices to make sure that any tall buildings respect the character of existing neighbourhoods. Clearly this is not the case here, as such tall buildings alongside (approx. 1930s) 1 storey bungalows, does not respect the character of the local neighbourhood at all.

I would be grateful if you could include these points as part of the representation.

Please let me know if you need any additional detail.

Many Thanks in advance on behalf of Hammond Avenue Residents.