



27th February 2013

To:
ldf@merton.gov.uk

Response to Merton Council on the LDF Sites and Planning Consultation

I have outlined our response to the draft sites and planning policies below:

Town Centres

We agree with the policy proposals outlined on p15 a-c except on (c) we would suggest a more open approach to the amalgamation of shop units if such action was in the interest of maintaining a sustainable town centre.

We strongly support the Justification 1.3 to provide a focus for community and civic activity, along with point 1.20 on p20.

Page 22 1.29 in support

Page 30 – 12 months is definitely too long, and is not a usual requirement. Would it not benefit both the Council as much as landlords if that was scrapped - or at the very least reduced to 3 months - as we need to do all we can to encourage lettings in the current climate.

and support 1.46

Page 34 – support 1.78 and 1.79

Page 61 3.7 and 3.8 – the length of time to market empty sites seems extremely long at 30 months. Is it feasible for this time frame to be shortened.

Page 62 – could proposals for new community facilities be covered in this section

Employment

Page 75 – 4.50-4.52

Would like to see robust management of local procurement and local employment as part of planning consent with conditions set out for how this would be followed up and conditions enforced.

Natural Environment



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