HOW TO MAKE YOUR VIEWS COUNT
Before proceeding further the Council would like your views on the proposals. Please refer to the plan overleaf for further details of the proposals.

An exhibition will take place at Raynes Park Library located in Approach Road, where you can speak to officers regarding these proposals. The exhibition will also be covering the proposed Raynes Park Town Centre Public Realm Strategy. Details of the exhibition are given below.

The decision to implement can be influenced by the responses received during this consultation. Please be sure to complete your enclosed prepaid reply card and return it together with any further comments and suggestions you may have by Friday 4th December 2009.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT
The results of the consultation exercise will be reported to the Council’s Street Management Advisory Committee on 12th January 2010 along with the views and recommendations of Council officers, after which a final decision will be made by the Cabinet Member for Planning and Traffic Management. As soon as a decision has been made you will be informed accordingly via a newsletter.

CONTACT US
If you require further information please contact Pete Thomas on 020 8545 3635 or Alistair Macadam on 0208 545 3195 or email pete.thomas@merton.gov.uk or alistair.macadam@merton.gov.uk . Alternatively you can visit our website using the following link www.merton.gov.uk/coombelane_lcn

EXHIBITION INVITATION
You may wish to attend our public exhibition to be held at Raynes Park Library, Approach Road during normal opening hours Thursday to Saturday 26-28 November 2009

Council officers will be available to answer any questions you may have at the following times:

Friday 27 Nov 2009 from 3.00 to 6.30pm
Saturday 28 Nov 2009 from 1.30 to 4.30pm

Councillors for Raynes Park Ward
Cllr Margaret Brierly Tel: 020 8545 3396
Email: margaret.brierly@merton.gov.uk
Cllr Linda Scott Tel: 020 8545 3396
Email: linda.scott@merton.gov.uk
Cllr Rod Scott Tel: 020 8545 3396
Email: rod.scott@merton.gov.uk
Dundonald Ward Councillors
Cllr Chris Edge Tel: 020 8545 3396
Email: chris.edge@merton.gov.uk
Cllr Corinna Edge Tel: 020 8545 3396
Email: corinna.edge@merton.gov.uk
Cllr Denise March Tel: 020 8251 2316
Email: denise.march@merton.gov.uk

WE NEED YOUR VIEWS
Proposed Cycle Facilities
Coombe Lane

Issue Date : 20th November 2009

Dear Resident / Business

The purpose of this leaflet is to inform you that Merton Council is proposing to introduce cycle facilities on Coombe Lane as part of the development of the London Cycle Network (LCN).

This scheme would form part of the London Cycle Network and is proposed to make it easier, safer and more convenient for cyclists to gain access to the south of the railway line via the existing Skew Arch. The development of the cycle network is intended to increase peoples’ choice of realistic and affordable forms of transport. The scheme supports Merton Council’s policy of promoting environmentally friendly modes of transport and should help reduce our carbon footprint.

The proposed scheme will provide both pedestrians and cyclists an improved east west route linking Coombe Lane and Kingston Road at the southern end of the Skew Arch thus avoiding the narrow cattle Arch and the existing traffic signals at the Approach Road / Raynes Park Bridge junction. Please see attached drawing for details.

This consultation is a repeat of a similar exercise undertaken in April last year. Following the previous consultation the Council’s Street Management Advisory Committee deferred a decision on the scheme and officers have now developed an alternative design which provides best value and has no impact on the mature trees on the railway embankment. The scheme has now been revised and your opinions are now being sought.

The revised scheme proposal has two key components:

- A new shared-use pedestrian and cycle facility on a widened footway from outside the shops next to Raynes Park Station to the Skew Arch to the east. This proposal would not involve the loss of any trees. There is a dismount section proposal outside the station as this area is considered too busy to permit cycling particularly at times of peak train use by commuters;
- An improved traffic signalled junction north of the Raynes Park Bridge incorporating a pedestrian and cycle crossing facility.

CYCLE TRACK - Cyclists currently use the Cattle Arch and travel eastwards towards Kingston Road via the traffic signalled junction south of Raynes Park Bridge. The Cattle Arch is too narrow to safely accommodate cyclists. In addition, cyclists also have difficulties negotiating the traffic signals south of Raynes Park Bridge. A new facility is proposed which will enable cyclists to join a new cycle track outside the shops and travel eastwards via the Skew Arch using a widened shared use footway. Unlike the last scheme no railway embankment land is required, hence, no trees will be lost but pedestrians will still benefit from a wider overall footway by the railway embankment.

In order to provide sufficient width to allow for cyclists, the footway will be widened into the road by moving the kerb line as shown on the attached plan. Three pay and display parking bays will be retained for off-peak use. This proposal will require cyclists to dismount for the section outside the station between the end of the existing Coombe Lane cycle track to just past the bus stop.

NEW CROSSING POINT - A new dedicated Toucan crossing facility which allows pedestrians and cyclists to cross, will be provided just north of the Raynes Park Bridge and will be linked to the existing traffic signals either side of the bridge. Existing footways will be widened in and around the junction to provide significantly improved visibility for pedestrians and cyclists; these measures will promote a safer environment for pedestrians and cyclists crossing the north side of Raynes Park Bridge (currently it is very difficult to see traffic coming from under the bridge). The proposal will help to improve visibility, formalise an established uncontrolled crossing point, provide a safer crossing environment for cyclists and pedestrians and it is likely to reduce traffic speeds.

IMPROVEMENTS SINCE THE PREVIOUS SCHEME (April 2008)

- No trees will be lost as a result of this scheme;
- The scheme cost will be around a quarter of the previous scheme;
- There will only be minor alterations to the existing island layout north of Raynes Park Bridge which is likely to reduce construction delays.
- This scheme will be introduced alongside the public realm proposals for Raynes Park which will help ensure a coordinated approach to the use of materials and result in a reduction of street clutter.