

From: B. Salt

Subject: Merton Hall Proposal/ Potential re-development

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I would like to voice my views on the proposal for Merton Hall. There are a number of points I would like to make:

1. The hall as it currently stand serves a useful purpose for the local community, in that it provides facilities for individuals, groups and local communities to meet and socialise, something which is important in ensuring that the community remains vibrant and diverse; in fact greater use can be made of the site now that the South Wimbledon Community Association have taken tenancy there.
2. The hall (which is of the Arts and Crafts era) which as you know a very unique and iconic design and has an attachment to John Innes and therefore provides something more than 'a square box' of developer mass produced flats; in fact there are several pictures of the building in local history books shortly after it was built.. In those pictures there was a brick frontage wall and trees to the front of the building; if anything the building should be brought back to its former glory and be celebrated for the beautiful building that it is. It should be a beacon for the local heritage of the Kingston Road and immediate environment.
3. Redevelopment of the site with flats or other residential properties would increase potential noise to existing residents and introduce a significant loss of privacy to the residents alongside but also at the rear of the site in Boscombe Road (this would be particularly so if any building was greater than two stories tall and came right up to the rear hedge bordering the small gardens of the residents of Boscombe road behind the site). There is also the potential increase in parking requirements that any new development will introduce which will have an impact on the surrounding street e.g. visitors to residents in the new development etc. There is already pressure on the number of spaces in surrounding streets as it currently stands.
4. The hall currently buffers residents at the rear (i.e. Boscombe Road) from the road noise of traffic utilising the Kingston road. This is a huge benefit to residents as this road as you are aware is extremely busy and noisy.
5. Behind and to the east side of the hall there is currently a green space which has an abundant array of flora and fauna and also wildlife, particularly birds. Redevelopment of the site would undoubtedly lose all of this which would have a detrimental effect on the diversity of the site.

I therefore respectfully request that my points above are given serious consideration as part of your consultation and I would urge you to reflect at the effect you proposal will have on the wider community served by the existing hall and on the privacy of the residents bordering the site.