

South Wimbledon Community Association 74 Haydons Road, Wimbledon.SW19 1HL 020 8540 4539.
email swcacomunity@yahoo.co.uk Charity No. 285705

Dear Sir or Madam@LBM,

Sites & Policies Development Plan Consultation

I am writing on behalf of South Wimbledon Community Association SWCA. We have an interest in Site proposal 27 Merton Hall which suggest considering this site for a mix of uses including community & residential. You should be aware that the London Borough of Merton are just about to grant a 28 year lease on Merton Hall to SWCA and are investing some 90k budget to bring these facilities up to a reasonable standard for community use. Indeed SWCA have agreed to invest a further 30k in double glazing and kitchen improvements at this site to ensure that these facilities are energy efficient and to provide sound proofing for when these facilities are in use. We are taking over these facilities on the 1st April 2012 as most of our existing facilities at Haydons Road are to be turned into a school to allow for the substantial increase in size of All Saints School to help ensure that there are sufficient primary school places in the Borough. We have over 50 community based user groups and most of them are transferring their custom to Merton Hall so that their respective activities may continue. Although we would like to think that most are transferring with us because of the friendly and efficient way we run the facilities that we manage we are aware that there is considerable shortage of community facilities in Merton and to a large extent our users have no choice. The Councils preferred use of this site for essentially residential use does not reflect this reality or the loss of community facilities at the Haydons Road site and elsewhere in Merton.

SWCA and our users object to the inclusion of this site in this document as it should not be viewed as a development site. Planning permission was given to development of a small car park to the east of this site at a Planning Committee meeting on Thursday 15th March and most of this work will be complete by the end of March 2012. Merton Hall is currently closed to allow the other improvement works to continue without interruption and for this work to be completed by the end of March 2012. This has caused extreme pressure on other such facilities in the Borough. Inclusion of this site in this document causes uncertainty amongst community user groups and a number of our trustees have questioned the wisdom of investing in a site that we may be evicted from as a result of a whim of Council Officials. We would suggest that in view of the 28 year lease the London Borough of Merton show their future intent by removing this site from the list of potential development sites. If the lease is allowed to run its course then the site cannot be allowed to be available until after 2023 and this means that it is beyond the scope of this document.

If for any reason this site remains in this document we insist that SWCA are represented at any future meetings concerning this site.

Signed. Andy Coles – Chair.