Urban Design

Appendices to Proof of Evidence

265 Burlington Road

Planning application ref. 19/P2387
Appeal ref: APP/T5720/W/20/3250440

On behalf of

Redrow Homes (London)

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Tel: 0207 198 2000
Date: 15th October 2020
PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE
13 FEBRUARY 2020
(7.20 pm - 11.15 pm)

PRESENT
Councillor Linda Kirby (in the Chair), Councillor Najeeb Latif, Councillor David Dean, Councillor Russell Makin, Councillor Simon McGrath, Councillor Peter Southgate, Councillor Billy Christie, Councillor Rebecca Lanning, Councillor Joan Henry and Councillor Dave Ward

ALSO PRESENT
Neil Milligan – Building and Development Control Manager
Tim Lipscomb – Planning Officer (Tesco Site Item only)
Tim Bryson – Planning Team Leader North
Jonathan Lewis – Planning Team Leader South
Sarath Attanayake – Transport Planning Officer
Lisa Jewell – Democratic Services Officer

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

No Apologies for absence were received at the start of the meeting
Councillor Dave Ward gave apologies as he had to leave the meeting after Item 7.

2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST (Agenda Item 2)

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

Councillor Lanning declared that she had sought legal advice that confirmed that she does not have a disclosable pecuniary interest in Item 7. She confirmed that she would be able to assess the application with an open mind.

Councillor McGrath declared that in the interest of openness and transparency he has a connection to the applicant of Item 5, and so would not take part in the debate or vote on the item.

Councillor Latif declared that in the interest of openness and transparency he knows the applicant of Item 5, and so would not take part in the debate or vote on the item.

Councillor Dean declared that in the interest of openness and transparency he has had discussions with the applicant for Items 8 and 9, and so would not take part in the debate or vote on both items.

Councillor Linda Kirby made a statement to inform the Committee that she and Councillor Najeeb Latif had both chaired recent Design Review Panel meetings. At these meetings neither take any part in the debate nor vote on the proposal.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Agenda Item 3)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2020 were agreed as an accurate record.
4 TOWN PLANNING APPLICATIONS (Agenda Item 4)

Supplementary Agenda: Amendments and modifications to the Officer’s report were published in a Supplementary Agenda. This applied to items 5, 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12. Order of the meeting – The Chair announced that the items would be taken in the following order: 7, 12, 6, 13, 10, 11, 5, 8, 9, 14 and 15

5 177-187 ARTHUR ROAD, WIMBLEDON, SW19 8EA (Agenda Item 5)

Proposal: Erection of a part third and part fourth floor extension to provide 1 x 1 bedroom and 1 x 2 bedroom flats

The Committee noted the officer’s report and presentation and additional material in the Supplementary Agenda - Modifications.

The Committee received a verbal representation from ward Councillor Ed Gretton who made points including:
- This application will still cause the same level of overlooking as the previously refused scheme. The issues have not been resolved
- Residents of Strathmore Road are very concerned about the overlooking
- The application should have three additional conditions to require all glazing on the Strathmore Road side to be fully obscure; to further set back the third floor and to reduce the height of the roof extension.

The Planning officer responded by saying that there was already a standard condition for obscure glazing. However the plans cannot be changed by condition.

RESOLVED

The Committee voted to GRANT Planning Permission subject to completion of a S.106 Agreement and conditions

6 579-589 KINGSTON ROAD, RAYNES PARK, SW20 8SD (SCHEME A) (Agenda Item 6)

Proposal: Conversion of existing property from 3 to 8 flats involving the erection of single storey side extensions and a two storey rear extension (with basement level) with associated landscaping, off-street car parking, cycle parking and refuse storage.

The Committee noted the officer’s report and presentation.

The Committee received verbal representations from two objectors to the application, who made points including:
- We acknowledge the changes made by the developer and but are disappointed that there are eight units in the development
- There are documents missing from the planning portal
There are a number of planning applications in this area. Each one places more pressure on the infrastructure and more pressure on street parking in the area.

- Loss of oak tree
- The area is in a flood plain with an underground a river, this puts the basement at risk

The Committee received a verbal presentation from the Applicant’s agent who made points including:

- We have worked with Officers on this application, and have the full support of the Council’s conservation Officer
- This application takes the opportunity to reinstate many of the original features including the plaster and brickwork of this locally listed building, and to bring the building back to its former glory
- We recognise that there is an issue with the parking but have been advised that 5 spaces is acceptable
- The Council’s engineers have found the small basement acceptable, and there is a basement method statement
- The landscaping will include mature planting

In reply to the objectors, The Planning Team Leader South explained that there are robust conditions in place to control the basement construction drainage. There are also conditions on the construction method statement and timing of construction. It is considered preferable to have landscaping at the front rather than one additional parking space.

Officers answered Members questions with the following points:

- Some units have their own outdoor space but all have access to shared garden
- The number of three bedroomed units is being maintained
- The units meet national space standards
- If required by a resident, a disabled parking bay could be created by widening one of the provided spaces
- The allocation of parking spaces is not a planning matter
- The Character of the street is houses with a small number of flats
- The area does is not a CPZ, and parking spaces are available on the nearby road

One member commented that this proposal was very slightly too big, whilst another Member commented that the design was very attractive and of a high quality.

RESOLVED

The Committee voted to GRANT Planning Permission subject to conditions

7 TESCO SITE, 265 BURLINGTON ROAD, NEW MALDEN, KT3 4NE (Agenda Item 7)
Proposal: Demolition of the existing buildings at 265 Burlington road and 300 Beverley way and erection of two blocks of development ranging in height between seven and 15 storeys and comprising 456 new homes, of which 114 will be one beds, 290 will be two beds and 52 will be three beds. 499sqm of b1(a) office space will be accommodated at ground floor level along with 220 car parking spaces, 830 cycle parking spaces, a realigned junction onto Burlington road, hard and soft landscaping and associated residential facilities. The application also includes minor changes to the layout and configuration of the retained Tesco car park

The Committee noted the officer’s report and presentation and additional information in Supplementary Agenda – Modifications. The Planning Team Leader South reminded Members that recent guidance had suggested that the emerging London Plan should be given moderate weight when assessing schemes such as this.

The Committee received verbal representations from three objectors.
A representative of Raynes Park High School made points including:
- Tall buildings are against policy
- The proposed 12 storey block is only 18m from the school boundary and 33m from the nearest classroom.
- There will be constant shadowing of the school’s design classroom. This will affect pupils learning as light levels will be variable.
- Research shows that natural light is of benefit to student progress
- Department of Education advice on classroom design gives priority to natural daylight
- We are sensitive to the need for housing but this application is too close to the school

A representative from a local Business made points including:
- Good Vehicle access is essential to local businesses
- The station and level crossing already affect our business
- The level crossing is a major source of congestion as it causes long traffic queues. This traffic will also block access to the proposed development
- Measures to improve this congestion, such as a stacking lane, have not been incorporated into this proposal
- This development should encourage local businesses but it does not

A local resident made points including:
- I understand the need for housing but do not support this proposal, as it is not of a suitable quality
- The use of a podium for parking creates a poor interface with the street
- The DRP gave an earlier version of the proposal a red and commented on the podium, but this proposal still includes the podium and design and quality is not improved
- There are numerous quality issues with the design of the units from the dual aspect to the balconies that will be windy, lacking in privacy, unsafe and useless
- Only 12% of the units are three bedroomed, 33% less than the London Plan
- 492 letters of objection were received by the Council
The Committee received a verbal presentation from the Applicant’s agent who made points including:

- This proposal will provide 465 new homes with 40% (171 units) affordable, and the other 60% for market rent. The independent viability assessment said that only 24% should be offered as affordable but developer choose to provide 40%
- The developers understand the problems and factors in the area, but few affordable homes were built in Merton in 2019 and in order to provide more the Committee must accept the height of this proposal
- The new London plan supports brownfield sites such as this, and the Mayor has given strategic support to this scheme
- Recent call-ins to the Secretary of State have supported proposals similar to this one where the need to provide housing has been given great weight
- The site is not constrained by immediate residential neighbours and performs well for maintaining daylight and not overlooking. It responds positively to its surroundings
- The Scheme has changed in response to the views of the DRP, the Council, the GLA and local stakeholders
- The scheme use high quality materials including brick, as noted by the GLA
- The height was amended following a meeting with Raynes Park High School. There are numerous example across London of such schemes next door to schools. The nearest school buildings are 34m away and the performance for daylight, sunlight and overlooking is good. WE will continue to meet with the school
- The Developers are aware of the traffic issues and level crossing. The Councils Traffic Officers and TfL have considered the proposal and have no problems.
- The existing site has the same level of parking that could be used now
- The Development will generate a CIL payment that can be spent on local services and local transport
- The scheme meets local, regional and national planning policy and provides affordable housing

The Committee received verbal representations from three Ward Councillors. Councillor Stephen Crowe representing the residents of Raynes Park made points including:

- There are no similar tall buildings in this area. The London Plan requires tall buildings to be of high quality design. The original application received a red from the DRP, but the proposal has hardly changed
- There were nearly 500 letters of objection
- This development would have an impact on traffic and congestion in the area, and would cause overlooking
- The density is 27% higher than the density matrix in the London Plan, and the housing mix does not comply with Merton Policy. The development is not policy compliant

Ward Councillor Eloise Bailey representing the residents of West Barnes made points including:
We are not against development of this site in principle, but it must be right for this area. Planning policy says development must be in keeping and add to quality of the area, but how can a 15 storey block be in keeping with the existing 2 storey buildings

There is a huge strength of feeling that this development is not in keeping with the surrounding area, and the DRP gave it a red; the experts agree with the residents. The scheme did not go back to DRP.

The representations have been removed from the website so I have to trust the report.

Redrow have listened and made some changes to the plans and affordable housing, but they haven’t listened enough.

If the affordable housing can be changed, what else could be improved?

Ward Councillor Hina Bokhari representing the residents of West Barnes made points including:

- This development is damaging and does not have enough positives
- Hundreds of residents have objected
- West Barnes does not have the infrastructure to cope with this development; step free access is needed at Motspur Park and Raynes Park stations, a new level crossing is needed, an extra medical centre is needed, local schools need extra classes. Local facilities are already struggling.
- Residents are worried by the environmental impact, loss of trees, there will be more traffic and more idling, there is a flood risk.
- The S106 monies should be focused and spent in West Barnes, its not enough to say there will be a few extra buses.
- The 220 car parking spaces are not enough.

In reply to the points raised by the Objectors and Ward Councillors the Planning Team Leader South made points:

- He referred Members to page 89 of his Agenda report, where there is consideration of the relevant guidance and policies that apply to Tall Buildings. He explained that there has to be judgement in balancing these policies.
- He referred members to page 97 of his Agenda Report which covered loss of light to surrounding buildings. He continued that the Department of Education Guidance relates to new build and does not apply in this situation
- The Density guidance in the London Plan is being modified so the housing density matrix will no longer apply.
- The emerging London Plan says that we should no longer be prescriptive about the Housing mix. We have our own plan from 2014 that has to weighed against the emerging plan, that will be adopted by spring 2020
- There will be substantial CIL monies which will be available for local facilities. There are strict regulations governing contributions

In reply to Members Questions the Planning Team Leader South made points including:

- It is rare for 40% affordable housing to be offered in a development. The actual rent figures charged would need to meet relevant criteria to ensure affordability used in London wide guidance
• The closing of the level crossing depends on the frequency of the trains. Traffic modelling has been examined by TfL and Merton Highways officers, and no overall concerns raised. It is accepted that there the proposal will have some local impact but there is a requirement for improvements at the nearby junction and pedestrian improvements.

• The site is outside the limits of Crossrail 2 safeguarding, but was identified as a potential Crossrail 2 worksite. However there is no formal safeguarding of the site that would preclude a decision being made. Members must consider what is proposed and not speculate on what might happen in the future regarding delivery of Crossrail 2.

• The affordable housing would be located in core A and core B but not the upper floors of Core B.

• 2%, i.e. 9 units, are single aspect. All face east.

• There is an office/meeting space of 103m² available for residents as a community space.

• Officers do not take issue with the proposed housing mix being different to the Merton preferred mix given the imminent adoption of the London Plan. Planning Officers and Housing Officers have instead focussed on the provision of family sized social housing as advised by the LBM Housing Officer.

• The high density taller buildings proposed could be considered as a reasonable way to achieve regeneration of this area. The area has previously been identified as an area of regeneration as it has good transport links. This application will fund improvements to the bus services in the area.

• The development provides playspace that meets the requirement for toddlers, and children. It does not provide space for teenagers and so a contribution for this is sought, which can be used to provide facilities in the future.

• The development does not meet the on-site carbon saving target, so Planning Officers are bound to seek financial mitigation. This does not mean that the scheme does not have good environmental credentials.

• Details of the heating fuel will be in the Energy Statement.

• There are a number of refuse points on the site.

Members made comments including:

• Developments of this high density would be expected close to transport hubs, with a ptal rating of 5 or 6. This location, with a ptal of 2 is not appropriate for this density.

• Disappointing that there is no environmental statement.

• There are serious traffic problems in the area associated with the level crossing. This development would add to those issues.

• There is not enough amenity space in the development. It will not be a good place to live. The first/ground floor will have no life, it will not be a good place for families.

• The DRP gave the original application a red, the developer should have gone back to the DRP with this application. This application is still poor quality design.

• The development does not meet or respect the Merton Council recommended housing mix.
• There has been no account taken of the DRP’s comments. There is no rationale for the height of the blocks
• The Development is out of keeping with the area. This density should be car free and close to a transport hub

A member spoke to support the development:
• There is an undeniable housing crises across London, with targets about to increase.
• We are offered 40% affordable housing from this development only because of its size
• There are significant concerns about this development, but the positive points for this development are the 450 units and the 40% affordable housing it provides

A motion to refuse was proposed and seconded.

RESOLVED

The Committee voted to:

1. REFUSE Planning Permission subject to any direction from the Mayor of London, for the following reasons:
   • Bulk, Mass and Height of the proposed development is too great
   • Traffic, Access and Parking

2. DELEGATE to the Director of Environment & Regeneration the authority to make any appropriate amendments in the context of the above to the wording of the grounds of refusal including references to appropriate policies

8 579-589 KINGSTON ROAD, RAYNES PARK, SW20 8SD (SCHEME A) (Agenda Item 8)

Proposal: Scheme A - demolition of existing buildings and redevelopment of site to provide office space and residential units in buildings of two to six storeys, comprising 118 self-contained flats, car and cycle parking, vehicle access, landscaping, plant and associated works.

The Committee noted the officer’s report and presentation and additional information in the Supplementary Agenda- Modifications.

In reply to Members Questions Officers made point including:
• The Council commissions external viability experts to assess the viability of proposed schemes. Costs, the financial environment and other factors can change with time which will influence the viability. A previous application for this site did provide affordable housing but the viability assessment for this proposal concludes that this scheme cannot support any affordable housing. A
Raynes Park Sub Area Neighbourhoods

23 Grand Drive Neighbourhood
Grand Drive Local Neighbourhood

Origins and General
Character
This neighbourhood is centred around Grand Drive and contains residential development and open spaces either side of it. Its northern boundary is marked by Bushey Road. The alignment of Grand Drive was originally marked by a hedgerow across open fields in maps dating from the 1870s. St. Saviours Church opened in 1907 and the distinctive row of “Arts and Crafts” villas opposite followed shortly after. Around 1915, Blenheim Road and the adjacent section of Grand Drive began to be populated with substantial villas. At that time, Grand Drive dwindled to a path going south towards Bijou Villas across open fields. In the 1920s George Blay bought up much of the open land surrounding these small areas of development and began to construct the Cannon Hill Estate. Open spaces were a big selling point and he took care to preserve the setting of the existing high quality Edwardian housing.

Land use
The predominant land uses within the area are residential and open space. The church and sports pavilions provide community facilities within the area.

Movement
The neighbourhood is bounded by the busy Bushey Road to the north and bisected by Grand Drive running north to south. The northern end of Grand Drive, suffers from heavy traffic queues at the junction with Bushey Road. Grand Drive is a key route linking Raynes Park through to Morden and Sutton.

Built Form
The majority of houses in the area consist of short terraces, originally with leaded light windows, open porches linked to front bays with three vertical timbers in the gables. Small areas of consistently detailed semi detached properties break the pattern at Linkway and Heath Drive, with substantial Edwardian villas in Blenheim Road. The northern part of Grand Drive has a distinctive character defined by the combination of St. Saviours Church and the well detailed villas opposite. To the south, the layout of Bijou Villas on the east side of Grand Drive, overlooking open space, contrasts with the formal planned layout of the streets to the north.
Open Space
The recreation grounds within the area make a key contribution to the area’s character. Prince George’s playing field provides open views from Bushey Road when approaching the neighbourhood from the east. This openness is in stark contrast to the tight and formal layout of terraced housing to the north of Bushey Road. The open space adjacent to Westway Close also has strong visual amenity value, being directly overlooked by the houses. Similarly, Bijou Villas and the adjacent houses on the eastern side of the lower part of Grand Drive benefit from their situation with glimpsed views of the open space opposite. A smaller area of open space on Crossway also contributes to this open character that characterises some parts of the street scene.
Grand Drive Local Neighbourhood

Neighbourhood Analysis

General Neighbourhood Characteristics
- Major movement corridor
- Minor movement corridor
- Major Gateway
- Glimpsed views

Positive Neighbourhood Characteristics
- Key view to open space
- Green open space
- Local Landmark
- Significant landscape feature

Negative Neighbourhood Characteristics
- GD
- Public realm enhancement needed

Merton borough character study: 23 Grand Drive Local Neighbourhood
Heritage map to be added at later stage
Grand Drive Local Neighbourhood

Character Area Assessment, Issues and Guidance
1 Grand Drive North Character Area

Assessment

Character Statement
This area marks the gateway into the neighbourhood. Turning off Bushey Road, the width of the road narrows and there is a sense of transition into a more tranquil residential area. Houses on the eastern side of Grand Drive are distinctive, high quality villas with a strong identity. Gable fronted pairs with tiled cills and angled bay fronted houses with rendered details line this side of the drive. Street trees are limited but there is substantial planting in front gardens. St.Saviours Church, a local landmark, creates a significant break in scale from the residential development that maintains an otherwise strong building line. Other individually designed houses contribute to the higher quality residential character. On the western side, two short closes, Michaelmas Close and Coppice close break the regularity of frontage with development at right angles to Grand Drive ranging from 1920s short terraces to a 1990s terrace at Michaelmas Close with an open parking court at the front.

Criteria Based Assessment

The qualitative attributes of each character area are assessed by using the following criteria:

Identity
Urban Layout
Movement
Architectural Interest
Built Form
Public Realm
Trees
Landscape
Features
Economic Vitality

Each criteria point is scored according to whether the contribution made to the character area is good, moderate or poor.

The total score defines whether an area is an:
1) Area of established high quality
2) Area with scope to reinforce the existing character
3) Area requiring enhancement to reinforce identity

Character area assessment sheets with breakdown of score and neighbourhood assessment map are located at the end of this chapter.

Overall Score: 75
Area type: Area of established high quality
1 Grand Drive North Character Area

Issues & Guidance

Issues

Public Realm:
• Paving; tarmac, fragmented finish.
• No grass verges, some loss of front boundary walls and hedges.
• Heavy traffic queues up to Bushey Road.
• Pedestrian environment adversely affected by speeding traffic.

Built Form:
• Some inappropriate roof extensions to villas on eastern side.
• Loss of original detailing and replacement roof covering.
• Changes to original materials eroding character of original properties.

Guidance

Public Realm:
• Strengthen street tree planting.
• Retain existing front boundaries and landscape.

Built Form:
• All alterations to properties to be informed by the original detailing and materials.
• Retain original doors and windows if present.
• Any replacement windows should match the glazing pattern of the original.
Character Statement

The character area contains some of the oldest properties in the neighbourhood, but also the largest variety in age and style. The large scale of the substantial Edwardian villas on the southern side of the road contrasts with the smaller scale 1930s semi-detached housing at the western end of the road and the Neo-Georgian terrace at the eastern end. The older villas and cottages set amongst the later development and the grass verges and mature street trees give the area an established, mature feel. The section of this character area on Grand Drive contains a group of three attractive "Arts and Crafts" style properties dating back to 1910. The entrance to Blenheim Road is marked by open frontages with no tree planting in front of the flats and the Neo-Georgian terrace. The road then bends around to the left and the character changes dramatically with a greater sense of enclosure created by the consistent building line and the mature trees in the street scene. This character area represents the historic "core" of the neighbourhood.

Criteria Based Assessment

The qualitative attributes of each character area are assessed by using the following criteria:

- Identity
- Urban Layout
- Movement
- Architectural Interest
- Built Form
- Public Realm
- Trees
- Landscape Features
- Economic Vitality

Each criteria point is scored according to whether the contribution made to the character area is good, moderate or poor. The total score defines whether an area is:

1) Area of established high quality
2) Area with scope to reinforce the existing character
3) Area requiring enhancement to reinforce identity

Character area assessment sheets with breakdown of score and neighbourhood assessment map are located at the end of this chapter.

Overall Score: 85

Area type: Area of established high quality
2 Blenheim Road Character Area

Issues & Guidance

Issues

Public Realm:
- Possible loss of existing mature and semi mature landscape features both in public and private realm.
- Lack of significant landscape at eastern end of road.

Built Form:
- Loss of original detailing to Edwardian properties and 1930s semi detached housing.
- Unsympathetic alterations including roof extensions, painting brickwork and replacement windows.

Guidance

Public Realm:
- Existing mature oak trees adjacent to 33 Blenheim Road and at the far eastern end of the road to be preserved.
- Encourage tree planting at the eastern end of the road to complement the landscape at the western end.
- Retain existing front boundaries and grass verges.

Built Form:
- Alterations to the existing properties should be informed by the original design and detailing.
- Roof alterations should be subservient to the main roof and not disrupt the principal elevation.
- Original glazing or glazing patterns should be retained.

Enhancement Project

GD1: Additional street tree planting at eastern end of road.
3 Linkway Character Area Assessment

Character Statement
This character area contains a significant group of 1930s semi-detached properties, all built at the same time by one developer. They are all consistently detailed with double height curved bays with tile hanging and timber open porches. Half-timbered gables top the double height bays with small oriel windows above the porches. Some original timber leaded light windows remain and where they have been replaced, the fenestration pattern has generally been followed. Parking is off street and the front boundary line is still strong with hedges and low walls defining property boundaries. The consistent rhythm of the bays and gables creates a strong sense of identity and cohesion. A fine and well preserved example of 1930s speculative suburban housing.

Criteria Based Assessment
The qualitative attributes of each character area are assessed by using the following criteria:

- Identity
- Urban Layout
- Movement
- Architectural Interest
- Built Form
- Public Realm
- Trees
- Landscape
- Features
- Economic Vitality

Each criteria point is scored according to whether the contribution made to the character area is good, moderate or poor.

The total score defines whether an area is:

1) Area of established high quality
2) Area with scope to reinforce the existing character
3) Area requiring enhancement to reinforce identity

Character area assessment sheets with breakdown of score and neighbourhood assessment map are located at the end of this chapter.

Overall Score: 75

Area type:
Area of established high quality
3 Linkway Character Area

Issues & Guidance

Issues

Public Realm:
• Loss of front boundaries to parking.
• Loss of landscape in private areas to forecourts.
• Loss of grass verges and scope for additional tree planting.

Built Form:
• Inappropriate alterations such as roof extensions and over large side extensions which damage the sense of separation between properties.
• Loss of original detailing such as windows, doors and porches.
• Infilling of entrance canopies destroys articulation of front elevation.
• Loss of original leaded glass features.
• Some hipped roofs converted to gables.
• Variety of roof finish with change of original clay tiles to concrete interlocking tiles.

Guidance

Public Realm:
• Retain paving slabs, reinstate grass verges and strengthen street tree planting.

Built Form:
• Retain original window and doors if present. Any replacement windows should match the glazing pattern of the original, stained or leaded features should be replicated if possible.
• Preserve existing front boundaries where present.
• Retain hip roof articulation on ends of terraces, roof lights should be situated on the rear elevation of houses.
• Avoid total infilling of entrance canopies.
4 Westway Character Area Assessment

Character Statement
A large residential area forming the majority of the neighbourhood. The area predominantly laid out in the 1920s by George Blay. Short terraces line a formal street layout with some grass verges and street trees. Sweeping roads and short cul de sacs create a open spacious feel to the area. Original detailing consists of timber details over porches, coloured leaded light inserts in doors and paired, half timbered gables at each end of the terrace. Area also includes Berrylands and Cannon Close where the house styles differ in detailing with shallow curved bays and oriel windows under wide eaves at Berrylands and distinctive terraces at Cannon Close with pebbledashed upper floors, well detailed timber windows with cornice and attractive gabled porches. The majority of parking is on plot, but due to relatively short frontages there is pressure to remove front boundaries resulting in a loss of cohesive street character. Westway Close and Crossway benefit from some views over open space. This character area has a strong identity due to the architectural cohesiveness of the buildings however it has poor legibility due to the similarity of building type.

Criteria Based Assessment
The qualitative attributes of each character area are assessed by using the following criteria:

Identity
Urban Layout
Movement
Architectural Interest
Built Form
Public Realm
Trees
Landscape
Features
Economic Vitality

Each criteria point is scored according to whether the contribution made to the character area is good, moderate or poor.

The total score defines whether an area is:

1) Area of established high quality
2) Area with scope to reinforce the existing character
3) Area requiring enhancement to reinforce identity

Character area assessment sheets with breakdown of score and neighbourhood assessment map are located at the end of this chapter.

Overall Score: 65

Area type:
Area with scope to reinforce existing character

Berrylands
4 Westway Character Area

Issues & Guidance

Issues

Public Realm:
• Loss of front boundaries, grass verges and street trees, parking on pavement, inconsistent paving materials and detailing.

Built Form:
• Loss of original features such as windows and doors.
• Infilling of porches and painting of brickwork on ground floors destroys architectural rhythm.
• Variety in front boundary treatment degrades the cohesion of street scene.
• Variety in roof articulation and finishes creates disjointed appearance in terrace, particularly on the ends of terrace where hipped roofs have been converted to gable with multiple roof lights installed facing street.

Guidance

Public Realm:
• Reinstate paving slabs, grass verges and trees where lost. Put in place measures to discourage pavement parking.
• Protect & enhance existing areas of open space.

Built Form:
• Retain original window and doors if present. Any replacement windows should match the glazing pattern of the original, stained or leaded features should be replicated if possible.
• Preserve existing front boundaries where present.
• Retain hip roof articulation on ends of terraces, roof lights should be situated on the rear elevation of houses.

Enhancement Project

GD2: Opportunity to enhance Westway Close by replacing railing.
5 Grand Drive South Character Area

Assessment

Character Statement
This character area comprises two large areas of open space Raynes Park Playing Fields and Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Recreation Ground separated by a row of residential properties on the eastern side of Grand Drive. A short terrace of well detailed Victorian cottages, close to the back of the footway opens out to a row of paired hipped roof villas with strong chimney features. Further south, Bijou Villas are a group of ornately detailed paired villas with brick and plaster detailing around windows and ornate porch. Further south, 1930s semis and a short terrace are all well detailed with prominent half timbering. Views over the open space on the western side of the road contrast with the tight development on the eastern side with its strong building line.

Criteria Based Assessment

The qualitative attributes of each character area are assessed by using the following criteria:

- Identity
- Urban Layout
- Movement
- Architectural Interest
- Built Form
- Public Realm
- Trees
- Landscape
- Features
- Economic Vitality

Each criteria point is scored according to whether the contribution made to the character area is good, moderate or poor.

The total score defines whether an area is:

1) Area of established high quality
2) Area with scope to reinforce the existing character
3) Area requiring enhancement to reinforce identity

Character area assessment sheets with breakdown of score and neighbourhood assessment map are located at the end of this chapter.

Overall Score: 70

Area type:

Area with scope to reinforce character
5 Grand Drive South Character Area

Issues & Guidance

Issues

Public Realm:
• The pedestrian environment is poor; there are no street trees or verges and pavement parking on the east side.
• Some loss of front boundaries.
• The views of open space in the area are restricted.

Built Form:
• Potential loss of open aspect to the west side.
• Loss of original detailing on Victorian and 1930’s properties
• Lack of relationship between St. Catherine’s Square development and existing street layout and built form.

Guidance

Public Realm:
• Improve pedestrian environment by reinstating grass verges, tree planting and rationalising parking.
• Existing significant landscape such as Weeping Willows adjacent to St. Catherine’s Square should be protected.
• Preserve existing open space and where possible integrate visually with the surrounding area.
• New developments should contribute to the street scene and link to the existing street layout.

Built Form:
• Alterations to the existing 1930s and Victorian properties must be informed by the original design and detailing.
• New developments should be creatively designed to be sympathetic in terms of massing, materials and details to the older properties in the area.

Enhancement Project

GD3: To improve the pedestrian environment / street scene on Grand Drive South by reinstating grass verges, tree planting and rationalising street parking.
Character Statement
An area of consistently designed 1930s semi detached housing with feature front doors with circular glazed insert, flat topped timber porches, square and curved bays and shallow oriel windows with brick detail underneath. Area includes a group of well detailed half timbered pairs with prominent gables. Mature street trees and some grass verges contribute towards the tranquil feel of the area and the consistency of detailing gives the area a cohesive feel.

Criteria Based Assessment
The qualitative attributes of each character area are assessed by using the following criteria:

1) Area with scope to reinforce the existing character
2) Area requiring enhancement to reinforce identity
3) Area of established high quality

Each criteria point is scored according to whether the contribution made to the character area is good, moderate or poor.

The total score defines whether an area is:
1) Area of established high quality
2) Area with scope to reinforce the existing character
3) Area requiring enhancement to reinforce identity

Character area assessment sheets with breakdown of score and neighbourhood assessment map are located at the end of this chapter.

Overall Score: 75
Area type: Area of established high quality

6 Heath Drive Character Area Assessment
Heath Drive
Merton borough character study: 23 Grand Drive Local Neighbourhood
6 Heath Drive Character Area

Issues & Guidance

Issues
Public Realm:
• Loss of front boundaries,
• Some maintenance of pavement needed

Built Form:
• Loss of original features and change of materials potentially giving area a disjointed appearance.
• Infilling of original entrance canopy.
• Loss of original leaded windows.
• Some hipped roofs converted to gable roof.
• Some painted brickwork at ground level.
• Some loss of building gaps between properties with 2 storey extensions.

Guidance
Public Realm:
• Retain front boundaries

Built Form:
• Preserve original doors or windows where present.
• Preserve gaps between buildings.
• Avoid change of roof structure from hip to gable.
• Setback side extensions from the frontage of the building.
• Avoid total infilling of entrance canopies
7 Prince Georges Playing Fields Character Area

Assessment

Character Statement
This area has a very high amenity value when seen from Bushey Road. The open views to the recreation ground contrast strongly with the tight, urban layout of the terraced housing to the north. From within the neighbourhood, the open space is only visible from the backs of the houses. Access to the recreation ground is from Grand Drive where wide views open out.

Criteria Based Assessment

The qualitative attributes of each character area are assessed by using the following criteria:

Identity
Urban Layout
Movement
Architectural Interest
Built Form
Public Realm
Trees
Landscape
Features
Economic Vitality

Each criteria point is scored according to whether the contribution made to the character area is good, moderate or poor.

The total score defines whether an area is:

1) Area of established high quality
2) Area with scope to reinforce the existing character
3) Area requiring enhancement to reinforce identity

Character area assessment sheets with breakdown of score and neighbourhood assessment map are located at the end of this chapter.

Overall Score: 55

Area type:
Area with scope to reinforce character
7 Prince Georges Playing Field Character Area

Issues & Guidance

Issues

Public Realm:
• Entrance to the area from Grand Drive would benefit from improvements.
• Car park are within playing field poorly defined and maintained.
• Some fencing within the open space presents an uncoordinated appearance.

Guidance

Public Realm:
• Improve surfacing and edges to the car park.
• Improve the approach to the playing field from Grand Drive

Enhancement Projects

GD4: Improve entrance to the area from Grand Drive including resurfacing
GD5: Improve car part layout and surface
## Grand Drive Local Neighbourhood

### 1 Grand Drive North Character Area

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**Criteria Score**

75

**Character Area Total Score**

75

### 2 Blenheim Character Area

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**Criteria Score**

85

**Character Area Total Score**

85
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**Criteria Score**: 50  25

**Character Area Total Score**: 75

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**Criteria Score**: 50  15

**Character Area Total Score**: 65
Grand Drive Local Neighbourhood

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**Criteria Score**
- **5 Grand Drive South Character Area:** 40
- **6 Heath Drive Character Area:** 70

**Character Area Total Score**
- **5 Grand Drive South Character Area:** 70
- **6 Heath Drive Character Area:** 75
## Character Area Assessment Criteria

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### Criteria Score

| Criteria Score | 40 | 15 |

### Character Area Total Score

55
Grand Drive Local Neighbourhood
Character Area Assessment

1. Grand Drive North
2. Blenheim Road
3. Linkway
4. Westway
5. Grand Drive South
6. Heath Drive
7. Prince Georges Playing Field

- Area of established high quality
- Area with scope to reinforce the existing character
- Area requiring enhancement to reinforce identity
Albany House
Appendix 4
PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE
16th June 2016

UPRN                         APPLICATION NO.                       DATE VALID
15/P4633                                        22.12.2015

Address/Site  Albany House, 300 Burlington Road, New Malden, 
              Surrey, KT3 4NH

(Ward)                          West Barnes

Proposal:                        Demolition of existing MOT garage (Sui generis) and  
                                 carpet shop (A1) and the erection of 41 residential units  
                                 (C3), 25 car parking spaces, 63 cycle parking spaces  
                                 and associated landscaping.

Drawing No’s                    Site location plan, drawings; 6519_D6000 Rev 00,  
                                 6519_D6100 Rev 03, 6519_D6101 Rev 03,  
                                 6519_D6102 Rev 02, 6519_D6103 Rev 02,  
                                 6519_D6104 Rev 02, 6519_D6150 Rev 02,  
                                 6519_D6500 Rev 01, 6519_D6501 Rev 00,  
                                 6519_D6502 Rev 00, 6519_D6600 Rev 00,  
                                 6519_D6700 Rev 02, 6519_D6701 Rev 01,  
                                 6519_D6702 Rev 01, Surface Water Drainage Strategy  
                                 (produced by Cole Easton Ltd Dated March 2016 Rev  
                                 2), Acoustic Report by WSP/Parson Brinckenhoff Report  
                                 no: 70016119

Contact Officer:                 Leigh Harrington (020 8545 3836)

RECOMMENDATION
GRANT PERMISSION SUBJECT TO A SECTION 106 AGREEMENT AND  
CONDITIONS.

CHECKLIST INFORMATION.

- S106 Heads of agreement: Yes
- Is a screening opinion required: No
- Is an Environmental Statement required: No
- Has an Environmental Impact Assessment been submitted –No
- Design Review Panel consulted – Yes
- Number of neighbours consulted – 1279
- Press notice – Yes
- Site notice – Yes
- External consultations: Environment Agency, Network Rail, Metropolitan 
  Police
- Number of jobs created – n/a
- Density 242 units per ha/ 783 hab rooms per ha
1. **INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The application is brought before PAC due to the level of objection to the proposal and for authority to enter into a section 106 agreement for affordable housing (Less than 40% provision).

2. **SITE AND SURROUNDINGS**

2.1 0.17 hectare roughly triangular shaped site located on the east side of Burlington Road to the north of the junction with Claremont Avenue. The rear of the site abuts the mainline rail line between Raynes Park and Motspur Park stations and the site is just south of a nearby level crossing. The site is situated opposite commercial units on Burlington road including the Tesco Extra store whilst to the south the site adjoins residential properties in Claremont Avenue. The site is currently occupied by an MOT centre and carpet retailer with a flat above the carpet premises.

2.2 The site is not within a Conservation Area, Archaeological Priority Zone or Controlled Parking Zone.

2.3 The application site enjoys reasonable access to public transport, (PTAL level 3) although this may rise with the advent of Crossrail 2. It is not in a Controlled Parking Zone.

3. **CURRENT PROPOSAL**

3.1 The current proposal involves the demolition of the existing MOT garage (Sui generis) and carpet shop (A1) with associated C3 flat and the erection of 41 residential units (C3), 25 car parking spaces, 63 cycle parking spaces and associated landscaping. The scheme has been reduced from 43 units and has undertaken a number of design revisions in response to comments received including those from the Design Review Panel.

3.2 On the ground floor the layout aligns with the pavement and improve the layout of the communal amenity area. The building at this level provides the ground floor of the three duplex units as well as a family sized unit. There are two entrance lobbies, three plant rooms, two refuse stores, two secure cycle parking areas providing 63 spaces and a 25 space parking area with four disabled spaces and 11 electric vehicle charging points.

3.3 The layout of the residential units are similar on each of the first, second and third floors whilst the building only provides a fourth floor of accommodation on the north of the site with the south being given to a communal roof garden.
4. **PLANNING HISTORY**

4.1 04/P1071 Planning permission granted for a change of use from mixed use of site including car sales, servicing and ancillary mot testing to use of southern part of site as an MOT testing station with ancillary vehicle servicing and the use of the northern part of the site for the sale and display of motor vehicles. The proposals include the erection of a brick dividing wall across part of the open yard facing Burlington Road in connection with the division of the site.

4.2 02/P2030 Planning permission refused for change of use from garage workshops/repair centre and vehicle showrooms to retail and storage. Reasons for refusal: The proposed development would be detrimental to the vitality and viability of the Borough's established town centres as defined in the shopping hierarchy, and the existing shopping parades within the vicinity of Burlington Road contrary to Policy S.11 of the Adopted Unitary Development Plan (April 1996) and Policies ST.29 and S.6 of the Second Deposit Draft Unitary Development Plan (October 2000) and inconsistent with Government advice contained in PPG 6 (Town Centres and Retail Development).

And

The proposal would result in the loss of an employment generating site, prejudicial to the Council's objectives of maintaining an adequate supply of employment land for small and growing businesses and preventing the erosion of land and buildings in business use, contrary to Policies SW.1 and W.9 of the Adopted Unitary Development Plan (April 1996) and Policies ST.14 and E.9 of the Second Deposit Draft Unitary Development Plan (October 2000).

4.3 96/P0794 Planning permission granted for a change of use from ancillary offices for car sales showroom and servicing to a caretakers flat.

4.4 95/P0705 Planning permission granted for a change of use of premises from storage, distribution, sales and karate studio to vehicle sales, showroom and servicing area involving provision of ancillary car parking, landscaping, creation of new front elevation and demolition of existing single and two storey flat roofed extensions.

5. **CONSULTATION**

5.1 Prior to the submission of the application the applicants undertook their own community involvement consultation process with letters sent to local residents and businesses. Meetings were also held with immediate neighbours, residents from the wider community, the Raynes Park and West Barnes Resident’s Association and held a public event to allow local residents to view and comment on the proposals on November 4th 2015.
5.2 The proposal was publicised by means of major press and site notices, and letters were sent to 1279 neighbouring occupiers on both the original and amended designs. In response 24 objection letters have been received from local residents and businesses raising the following issues:

- Insufficient on-site parking with 25 spaces for 43 (41) flats. Already pressure from local business visitors and staff, residents, commuters and Local Indian Community hall. Parking is insufficient and will add to congestion to the detriment of other businesses.
- Should provide one space per flat. 2 & 3 bed flats will have more than 1 occupant, total would be at least 82 people which equates to a need for at least 47 spaces meaning 22 will have to park on side streets.
- PTAL rating is 2 not 3
- Reference to Crossrail 2 is misleading as it is at least 17 years away.
- Increased pressure on traffic levels.
- 66 cycle parking spaces too many would be better used for car parking.
- Increased pressure on local infrastructure including schools, medical services, electrical and water supplies.
- Increased risk of flooding.
- Building too high, with too many units and out of keeping.
- Loss of daylight/sunlight, impact on Seaforth Avenue not been considered.
- Loss of privacy to buildings and gardens, 26 flats will overlook Seaforth Avenue houses
- Not enough Affordable Housing will be provided. Local people should get first refusal.
- Proposal involves forced closure of a viable business that provides local services to the community
- Architecture is horrendous, cheap and nasty, just a lumpy concrete structure that will add nothing to the area.
- Increased dust levels during construction.
- No consultation with local community.
- Not been assessed under the Countryside and Wildlife Act 1981.

5.3 A letter was received from MOTEST, one of the businesses on the site raising objections on the grounds that:

- The applicants have not supported their search for alternative premises.
- They have never seen the Levene Commercial documentation before and it does not address their needs.
- This is not just an MOT station; 70% of the work is servicing and repair so is important local service.
- The business should be integrated into the scheme or alternative site found before any development goes ahead.
- Employs 13 at the MOT centre and 7 at the carpet shop.
- Application fails to accord with policy DM E3.
5.4 Six letters of support were received making the following comments;
- Glad that it is not a commercial use next door, shops would become fast food or of licence outlets.
- Provides much needed high quality accommodation.
- This will help define the area as residential not a commercial/light industrial area.
- Will improve look of the local area.
- It has been planned in conjunction with the local community.
- Council should sell the triangular plot of grassland to north of the site to allow it to be landscaped as part of this development.
- Ideal location for an apartment block.

5.5 Future Merton Policy Team. Flexible application of policy DM.E3 appropriate subject to applicant clearly demonstrating actively assisting the current occupiers of the site with finding new suitable alternative accommodation.

5.6 Transport Planning have confirmed that the site has reasonable access to public transport with nearby bus stops and rail services from Motspur Park being on the cusp of PTAL 2 and 3. Whilst there is no set minimum provision for vehicle parking the provision of around 50% on-site parking is considered acceptable. 2011 Census data for West Barnes ward is that only 20.4% of households have no access to a car (this is lower than the borough average) – however because all the units are flats with a significant number of 1 and 2 beds this suggests that level of car ownership within development will be lower than the ward average. The site is PTAL 3 – reasonable access to public transport. No increased vehicle trips are anticipated over the MOT/garage and carpet shop uses. A new on street dedicated loading bay will be needed for servicing needs and requires a S278 agreement. The cycling and electric vehicle provision meets London Plan standards and overall no objection to the proposals. A parking management strategy is also recommended.

5.7 Environmental Health officers were consulted on the proposals and had no objections but given the site’s location recommended conditions relating to noise, vibration, external lighting, site contamination, air quality and a demolition and construction method statement be imposed.

5.8 Flood Risk Management confirmed the site is outside of Flood zones 2 & 3 and raised no objection to the proposal subject to the imposition of a suitable condition relating to a Sustainable Urban Drainage Scheme.

5.9 Future Merton - Climate Change; raised no objections to the proposals subject to the imposition of suitable conditions.
5.10 The Metropolitan Police Safer by Design Officer was consulted on both designs and offered comments on the latest revision relating to gates, recessed areas, defensible space, communal area seating, undercroft design, lighting, cycle storage design and landscaping.

5.11 Network Rail raised no objection to the proposal but pointed out that Crossrail 2 would increase the frequency of trains and the tracks coming closer to the site boundary. Informatives relating to Network Rail Asset protection were recommended.

5.12 Environment Agency raised no objection subject to the imposition of conditions relating to contamination, sustainable drainage and piling of foundations.

5.13 The Design Review Panel discussed the design as originally submitted and made the following comments:
“The Panel felt that the proposal had the potential to be a really elegant building and supported the principle of intensification on the site. There was some discussion on appropriate height for the building, but that this needed to be justified better by showing long street elevations of the surrounding context on Burlington Road. The recently completed building at the junction with Claremont Avenue was cited as a potential reference point.

The Panel were concerned about the number of single aspect flats in the building and although there was discussion on this issue it appeared to remain an issue for the Panel. The Panel stated that the test of good quality would be whether the flats were good to live in. This was a matter of ‘shades of grey’ rather than a simple ‘black and white’ application of standards.

The Panel had a number of suggestions regarding the best way to develop the site, addressing a range of issues, including that of single aspect flats. Overall the Panel felt that the footprint of the building brought it perhaps too close both to the railway and the busy road on either side of the site.

Whilst the Panel saw merit in the façade of the building being subdivided into planes of brick, they felt that this could appear monolithic when viewed from the street and also the Tesco car park. The suggestion was to have three separate buildings each with its own core. This would break up the bulk of the building with its large footprint, as well as address the single-aspect issue.

The Panel were also concerned about the quality of the recessed winter garden balconies becoming ‘cave like’ or becoming enclosed in clutter for privacy. There was some concern about using different shades of brick and it was recommended to find a really high quality
brick for the large areas of facing and stick with one shade. It was also noted that the depth of the brick skin would be critical to the feel of the building and this needed to be got just right. The Panel suggested there was scope for introducing curves in the brickwork for this part of the design and also elsewhere, given that the proposed triangular spaces would give rise to similar issues as curved spaces.

The Panel also felt that the distinction of the ground floor from those above was weak and the building would benefit from a stronger feel of a bottom-middle-top progression. There was some criticism of the location and size of the amenity space.

It was suggested that the parking could be located in a line alongside the railway, accessed from the southern end of the site, in order to provide a stronger active frontage to the street as well as allowing a more generous ‘breathing space’ between the building and the busy road for the ground floor units.

Whilst the local parking context was appreciated, it was suggested that an on-site car club could reduce the need for parking provision and should be explored.

The Panel liked the simplicity of the elevations and the encouraging view from the north that drew the eye to the building at this pivotal location. The proposal had great potential but needed further design work to become the high quality building it needed to be on this prominent site.

VERDICT: AMBER

The DRP have not discussed the revisions subject of this report

6. POLICY CONTEXT

6.1 The National Planning Policy Framework was published on the 27 March 2012 and replaces previous guidance contained in Planning Policy Guidance Notes and Planning Policy Statements. This document is put forward as a key part of central government reforms ‘…to make the planning system less complex and more accessible, and to promote sustainable growth’.

6.2 The document reiterates the plan led system stating that development that accords with an up to date plan should be approved and proposed development that conflicts should be refused. The framework also states that the primary objective of development management should be to foster the delivery of sustainable development, not to hinder or prevent development.
6.3 To enable each local authority to proactively fulfil their planning role, and to actively promote sustainable development, the framework advises that local planning authorities need to approach development management decisions positively – looking for solutions rather than problems so that applications can be approved wherever it is practical to do so. The framework attaches significant weight to the benefits of economic and housing growth, the need to influence development proposals to achieve quality outcomes; and enable the delivery of sustainable development proposals.

6.4 Paragraph 17 of the NPPF sets out a number of ‘Core Planning Principles’. These include:

- Not being simply about scrutiny, but be a creative exercise in finding ways to enhance and improve the place in which people live their lives;
- To proactively drive and support sustainable economic development to deliver homes and businesses;
- Always seek to secure high quality design;
- Encourage effective use of land by reusing land that has been previously development (brownfield land) where it is not of high environmental value;
- Promote mixed use developments, and encourage multiple benefits from the use of land in urban areas; and to take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.

6.5 The National Planning Policy Framework [NPPF] urges local authorities to significantly boost the supply of housing. Local authorities should use their evidence base to ensure that their Local Plan meets the full, objectively assessed need for market and affordable housing in the housing market area, as far as is consistent with other policies set out in the NPPF. This process should include identifying key sites that are critical to the delivery of the housing strategy over the plan period.

6.6 The National Planning Policy Framework states that local authorities should identify and update annually a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide five years’ worth of housing against their housing requirements with an additional buffer of 5% (moved forward from later in the plan period) to ensure choice and competition in the market for land.

London Plan (March 2015)

6.7 Relevant policies in the London Plan (March 2015) are 3.3 (Increasing Housing Supply), 3.4 (Optimising Housing Potential), 3.5 (Quality and Design of Housing Development), 3.8 (Housing Choice), 5.1 (Climate Change), 5.3 (Sustainable Design and Construction), 5.13 (Sustainable drainage), 6.9 (Cycling), 6.13 (Parking), 7.14 (Local Character), 7.5 (Public realm), 7.6 (Architecture), 7.15 (Reducing and managing noise), 7.21 (Trees and woodlands).
Merton LDF Core Planning Strategy (2011).

6.8 Relevant policies in the Core Strategy (July 2011) are CS8 (Housing Choice), CS9 (Housing Provision), CS11 (Infrastructure), CS 13 (Open space), CS14 (Design), CS15 (Climate Change), CS 16 (Flood risk management), CS 17 (Waste Management), CS18 (Active Transport), CS19 (Public Transport), CS20 (Parking, Servicing and Delivery).

Merton Sites and Policies Plan (2014).

6.9 Relevant policies in the Adopted Sites and Policies Plan 2014 are DM D1 (Urban Design and the Public Realm), DM D2 (Design considerations in all developments), DM D3 (Alterations and extensions to buildings), DM E3 (protection of scattered employment sites), DM EP 2 (Reducing and mitigating against noise), DM EP 4 (Pollutants), DM F2 (Sustainable urban drainage systems), DM O2 (Nature conservation), DM T1 (Support for sustainable transport and active travel), DM T2 (Transport impacts of development), DM T3 Car parking and servicing standards.

6.9 London Housing SPG 2016

7. PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 The main planning considerations include the loss of the existing scattered employment site; housing targets, affordable housing and standard of accommodation; impact on neighbouring amenity; parking and servicing; planning obligations.

7.2 Loss of the existing scattered employment site.

SPP policy DM E3 is concerned with the protection of scattered employment sites. The policy defines those employment uses to be those with Use Class B1 (a), (b) & (c) B2 & B8 as well as appropriate sui generis uses. The MOT test facility and car servicing (MOTEST Ltd) being sui generis and B2 uses would therefore fall within this policy, the carpet shop being A1 use would not. Policy resists the loss of scattered employment sites except where:

(i) The site is located within a predominantly residential area and it can be demonstrated that its operation has a significant adverse effect on local residential amenity.

(ii) The site is unsuitable and financially unviable for whole site employment use and

(iii) It has been demonstrated through full and proper marketing that there is no realistic prospect of employment or community use of the site in the future.
7.3 In this case the current occupiers of the MOT test centre and garage (MOTEST Ltd) are making full use of the site. No marketing has been undertaken. The carpet retailer is still operating from the site.

7.4 Part b of the policy allows the Council to seek mitigation against the loss of employment land through the provision of alternative sites for employment use. Officers consider this approach to have greater merit in this instance rather than seeking a notional provision of employment floorspace (probably B1 floorspace) on the ground floor as part of the redevelopment given the availability of vacant office floorspace locally, some of which have been subject to Prior Approval submissions to convert to flats, and the impact this would be likely to have on the viability of the scheme, potentially squeezing out potential for the delivery of affordable housing for which there is a need.

7.5 The applicant has undertaken a process of actively seeking alternative sites that may be suitable for use by the current occupiers at a rental value commensurate with the current costs on site. The sites listed below have been suggested to the operators of MOTEST but no alternative suitable sites have been identified as being acceptable to them as yet.

7.6 Sites presented to MOTEST by location, size, price, parking and distance from the existing site.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Size sqft</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Price per sqft</th>
<th>Parking</th>
<th>Distance (Miles)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Motest, 300 Burlington Road (The site)</td>
<td>4500</td>
<td>£90,000.00</td>
<td>£20.00</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 St Dunstan's Hill, SM1 2JX</td>
<td>3500</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>3.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shannon Commercial Centre, Beverley Way, KTS 4PT</td>
<td>3985</td>
<td>£55,000.00</td>
<td>£13.80</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>158 Garth Road, Morden, SM4 4LU</td>
<td>10,27 8</td>
<td>£60,000.00</td>
<td>£5.83</td>
<td>Approx 12</td>
<td>1.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>177 Hook Road, Surbiton, KT6 5AR</td>
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<td>£51,000.00</td>
<td>£5.18</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>196 Morland</td>
<td>3220</td>
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<td>Not known</td>
<td>Not</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Road, CR0 6NF</td>
<td>known</td>
<td>known</td>
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<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
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<td>-------</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kimpton Trade and Business Centre, Minden Road, SM3 9PF</td>
<td>3503</td>
<td>£12.25</td>
<td>Circa 30</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kimpton Trade and Business Centre, Minden Road, SM3 9PF</td>
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<td>£12.25</td>
<td>Circa 30</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44 Mill Place, Surrey, KT1 2RL</td>
<td>2011</td>
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<td>£9.62</td>
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<td>Unit 4, 681 Mitcham Road, CR0 3YH</td>
<td>8912</td>
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<td>Capital Industrial Estate, 24 Willow Lane, Mitcham, CR4 4NA</td>
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<td>£11.09</td>
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<td>193 Garth Road, Morden SM4 4LZ</td>
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<td>2.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Floors</td>
<td>Size</td>
<td>Price</td>
<td>Available</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
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<td>-------</td>
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<td>----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merton Industrial Estate, Lee Road, SW19 3WD</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6760</td>
<td>£14.00</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>Sutton Business Park, Restmor Way, Vario Sizes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sutton Business Park, Restmor Way Varios Sizes</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>Yes but number not known</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nelson Trade Park, The Path, SW19 3BL</td>
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<td>£13.00</td>
<td>Yes but number not known</td>
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<td>15 Lyon Road, Wimbledon</td>
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<td>£120,000.00</td>
<td>£13.47</td>
<td>Aug-15</td>
<td>2.5</td>
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</table>

7.7 While officers acknowledge that the applicant can achieve vacant possession of the site under the Landlord and Tenant Act within the near future, in order to mitigate against the loss of the scattered employment site it is recommended that a section 106 agreement be structured to ensure that the business relocation/site finding process undertaken by the applicant continues for a period of not less than six months from the grant of planning permission.

7.8 The principle of residential development on the site.
Policy CS. 9 within the Council’s Adopted Core Strategy [July 2011] states that the Council will work with housing providers to provide a minimum of 4,107 additional homes [411 new dwellings annually] between 2015 and 2025. The site currently has a flat above the carpet company offices, is adjacent to the residential development of Claremont Avenue and separated from houses in Seaforth Avenue by a railway line. Consequently, subject to mitigation against noise and vibration from the rail line, officers consider that the site would be acceptable for residential occupation as a continuation of the surrounding residential area. The proposal would provide 41 new flats ranging in a mix of sizes with 11x one bedroom units, 21 x two bedroom, 8 x three bedroom and 1 x four bedroom unit.

7.9 Affordable housing
Policy CS 8 within the Core Strategy states that for new development involving housing of 10 or more dwellings the affordable housing target is for 40% of the units to be affordable of which the desired tenure mix should be 60% social Rented and 40% intermediate. The proposal was submitted with an Economic Viability Assessment that has been independently assessed taking into consideration matters such as construction costs, CIL costs, development costs including fees, the assigned existing use value of the site and sales values of the scheme’s market homes. This assessment followed an initial
assessment of the applicant’s affordable housing and viability report. That updated report from April 2016 concluded that the smaller scheme for 41 flats was able to support an on-site affordable housing contribution of approximately 17% or 7 flats. The applicant has commented that whilst not agreeing with the findings of the report, on an entirely without prejudice basis they are prepared to increase the affordable housing offer on the site to 20% (8 flats) on the following basis:

- Permission is granted at local level for a solely residential scheme/ for the scheme currently under consideration; and

- That no review mechanism is imposed, given that uplift in affordable housing is already being provided and, for a scheme of this size, would be contrary to clear advice set out within the PPG and in recent Planning Inspectors appeal decisions.

7.10 In April the applicant confirmed that the scheme has been reviewed by Wandle Housing Association who would be prepared to take affordable rent and intermediate units in the scheme. The following mix is therefore proposed and based upon the current drawings:

**Affordable Rent**

- 1 x 2 bed (Unit 1.1)
- 3 x 3 bed (Units G1/ G2/ G4)
- 1 x 4 bed (Unit G3)

All of these units are either accessed from the southern core or directly from the street.

**Intermediate/ Shared Ownership**

- 1 x 1 bed
- 2 x 2 bed

The location of these units is to be determined but can be mixed with the private accommodation.

7.11 The latest London Housing SPG (2016) advises that review mechanisms are encouraged to be considered when a large scheme is built out in phases and/or is built out over a long period of time. The mechanism should specify the scope of a review of viability for each phase or relevant phase of development. For schemes with a shorter development term consideration should be given to using S106 clauses to trigger a review of viability if a scheme is not substantially complete by a specified date. Such approaches are intended to support effective and equitable implementation of planning policy while also providing flexibility to address viability concerns.
7.12 So as to be consistent with the SPG, officers therefore recommend adding a review mechanism for the purpose of securing an additional off site contribution in any legal agreement in the event that the development is not substantially complete within a specified period.

7.13 **Standard of Accommodation and Amenity Space**
The London Plan (2015) (Policy 3.5) and its supporting document, The London Housing Supplementary Planning Guidance 2016 provide detailed guidance on minimum room sizes and amenity space. These recommended minimum Gross Internal Area space standards are based on the numbers of bedrooms and therefore likely future occupiers. Each flat either meets or exceeds this standard, with all habitable rooms receiving reasonable levels of daylight, outlook and natural ventilation. Similarly each unit meets or exceeds the minimum requirement for private amenity space.

**Floor and Amenity space provision**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Apartment</th>
<th>Floor Area m2</th>
<th>London Plan GIA standard m2</th>
<th>Amenity space m2</th>
<th>London Plan Standard m2</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>1 3b5p Duplex</td>
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<td>2 3b5p Duplex</td>
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<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 4b5p Duplex</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>24 3b5p</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>44</td>
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</tr>
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</table>
7.14 Occupier amenity
Sites and Policies Plan policies DM EP2 and DM EP4 seek to reduce exposure to noise, vibration and pollution. The development will be set between a railway line to the rear and a main distributor road to the front which have the potential to impact the amenity and health of occupiers. Environmental Health had no objections to the principle of the development but have requested conditions be imposed to ensure that sufficient mitigation measures are put in place to protect future occupiers.

7.15 Design
London Plan policy 7.4, Sites and Policies Plan policies DM D1 and DM D2: as well as LBM Core Strategy Policy CS14 are all policies designed to ensure that proposals are well designed and in keeping with the character of the local area. The applicants have actively engaged with the public and officers in refining the design of the building and the Council’s Urban Design officer has been involved in refining the scheme with involvement and suggestions from The Metropolitan Police Safer by Design Officer. The proposal has been reviewed by the Council’s Design Review Panel who gave the original design an amber light. A number of alterations have been made to the design including servicing and access, amenity space, internal corridors, brickwork, active frontage and building alignment such that officers are supportive of the design and apart from some comments relating to its size, only two objections were received relating to its architectural merit.

7.16 Neighbour Amenity
London Plan policy 7.6 and SPP policy DM D2 require that proposals will not have a negative impact on neighbour amenity in terms of loss of light, visual intrusion or noise and disturbance. During the early
stages of the application revisions were made to the scheme so as to reduce the impact of the proposals on the amenity of the closest residential neighbours at 2 and 2a Claremont Avenue and this included a daylight/sunlight assessment and the occupiers of 2 Claremont Avenue have written in support of the proposals. There have been objections from neighbours in properties in Seaforth Avenue at the rear of the site concerned about the impact on their amenity in terms of loss of light and privacy. The closest flats to the rear garden boundaries are 20m away and the closest point between windows in the flats and the houses is 45m and this exceeds the Council SPG guidance for a 25m gap between windows on upper and lower floors to ensure adequate levels of privacy and daylight/sunlight.

7.17 As a result of comments from neighbours the applicants undertook a further light impact assessment in relation to the houses in Seaforth Avenue. Reference was made in that report to the BRE guide ‘Site layout planning for daylight and sunlight- A guide for good practice’ The BRE document states that “if the angle to the horizontal subtended by the new development at the level of the centre of the lowest window is less than 25 degrees for the entire development then the new massing is unlikely to have a substantial effect on the diffuse sunlight enjoyed by the neighbouring building”. In this instance the angle is 17 degrees and the proposal thereby fully complies with the BRE tests and therefore there will be no material impact with regards to internal skylight to the Seaforth Avenue properties. The assessment also considered the impact of shading to the gardens in Seaforth Avenue and their ‘Sun-on-Ground calculations’ of 21st March show “absolutely no change in sunlight availability caused by the proposal to the vast majority of gardens”. The only change that was registered was a 1% variation which is within the 20% loss considered to be potentially material under the BRE guidance. A further transient overshadowing assessment for March 21st showed a limited impact to a small proportion of every garden in the late afternoon hours but existing garden walls also cast shadows at this time of day such that there is no material change in amenity levels to the spaces. A shading test was also undertaken for June 21st when gardens are well lit throughout the day. Towards sunset shadows are extended towards the gardens but at these times sunlight would already be blocked by garden walls and the existing trees and bushes located at the western boundary of the garden which would be in full leaf in the summer months. The findings based on December 21st found that there are no additional shadows cast by the proposals when compared to the pre-existing conditions in winter. Therefore, whilst the proposals may increase the perceived loss of privacy and sunlight, the technical assessment has found that is not the case.

7.18 **Traffic, Parking and Servicing**

This issue was of greatest concern in most objections to the proposals. With regards to increased traffic levels the Council’s Transport planning officer is satisfied that the level of vehicle movements generated is
unlikely to be greater than the current use of the site as a garage, MOT centre and carpet shop and therefore the proposals will not have an adverse impact on the local highway network.

7.19 In terms of parking Government and Mayoral guidance seeks to encourage use of sustainable travel modes and to reduce reliance on private car travel. To this end there are only guidelines on the maximum level of parking that should be provided rather than a minimum. The Council’s Transport Planning Officer advised that the 2011 Census data for West Barnes ward is that only 20.4% of households have no access to a car (this is lower than the borough average) – however because all the units are flats with a significant number of 1 and 2 beds this suggests that level of car ownership within the development may be lower than the ward average. Consequently given the level of on-site parking, it is considered that the development would be unlikely to result in adverse impacts for highway safety and the scheme provides the required amount of onsite parking such that it would not warrant refusal of the scheme. The proposal will provide electric vehicle charging points and disabled bays in accordance with London Plan requirements and the Council’s Transport Planning Officer has advised that the proposal should be subject to a standard condition to provide a Parking Management Strategy.

7.20 The scheme will require a new on street loading bay to service the development, provide a new vehicle access point and reinstate the pavement where the current vehicle access is located. A condition requiring this to be addressed through a Section 278 agreement under the Highways Act is therefore recommended.

7.21 The proposed level of cycle parking exceeds the London Plan minimum standards by four spaces and is consequently considered acceptable. There is a requirement for the cycle storage to be secure and therefore a condition requiring details to be approved is also recommended.

7.22 Flood risk and Sustainable Urban Drainage
The site itself is not at risk from flooding but larger schemes such as this proposal are required to have regard to policy 5.13 of the London Plan and ensure that they incorporate SUDS that aims to achieve greenfield run-off rates and ensures that surface water run-off is managed as close to its source as possible. A condition requiring compliance with the SUDS strategy already submitted with the application is therefore recommended.

7.23 Play space
The confined nature of the site means that the capacity to provide formal play space for children is too constrained although there is amenity space provided in the form of private balconies and two communal areas. Monies obtained through CIL would allow for improvements to play space in other local public areas.
7.24 Contaminated land.
The relevant consultees have no objection to the proposals but require
the imposition of suitable conditions relating to potential land
contamination given the commercial use history of the site.

8. SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
REQUIREMENTS

8.1 The proposal does not constitute Schedule 1 or Schedule 2
development. Accordingly, there are no requirements in terms of an
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

9. CONCLUSION

9.1 Although the site is currently in use as a scattered employment site for
the MOT centre, the retail outlet falling outside the reach of this policy,
the applicants have actively sought to arrange for alternative
employment space for the current commercial occupiers of the site as
a means of mitigating the loss of the site for employment purposes.
Although a suitable alternative site has yet to be found, a section 106
agreement would ensure this process continues and fulfil the objectives
of adopted policy.

9.2 Notwithstanding the proximity of the railway line, subject to suitable
conditions to ensure remediation in the event of site contamination and
to safeguard against noise and vibration, redevelopment of the site for
residential purposes is considered acceptable.

9.3 The redevelopment of the site would provide 41 units of varying sized
accommodation for which there is a recognised need. 20% (8) of the
units will be for affordable housing and all the accommodation meets or
exceeds the minimum internal and external space standards and the
design and layout is considered to be of a high standard. Whilst
parking has been of major concern to the majority of objectors the
amount of vehicle and cycle space on site meets the London Plan
standards. For these reasons the proposals are considered to accord
with relevant planning policies and the proposals are therefore
recommended for approval.

RECOMMENDATION, GRANT PERMISSION SUBJECT TO A SECTION
106 AGREEMENT AND CONDITIONS

Heads of terms:

i) Provision of on-site affordable housing (not less than 8 units - 5
affordable rent, 3 shared ownership).

ii) The S106 to include a review mechanism such that at the stage
of substantial completion a determination can be made as to the
scope for an off-site contribution towards affordable housing and
to secure such a contribution.

iii) To provide for measures such that for a period of 6 months from
the date of the planning permission, the applicant has made best
endeavours to assist MOTEST Ltd to find suitable, appropriate and equivalent alternative premises for the operation of the business displaced by this development.

iv) The developer agreeing to meet the Council's costs of preparing drafting and monitoring the Section 106 Obligations.

1. A.1 Commencement of development for full application

3. B.1 Material to be approved
4. B.4 Surface treatment
5. B.5 Boundary treatment
6. C.6 Refuse and recycling
7. D.9 No external lighting
8. D.11 Construction times.
9. F.1 Landscaping/Planting Scheme.
10. F.2 Landscaping (Implementation)
11. H.3 Redundant crossovers.
12. H.4 Provision of Vehicle Parking amended to include “and shall provide electric vehicle charging points in accordance with London Plan standards”.
13. H.7 Cycle Parking to be implemented
14. H.10 Construction vehicles
15. H.11 Parking Management Strategy
16. Non standard condition. Prior to the commencement of construction works details of: the design of the seating in the communal amenity areas; the design of all access gates; defensible buffer zones; communal entrance security; refuse and cycle store locking systems, and the design and lighting of the undercroft parking area shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority and be installed and operational prior to first occupation of the building. Reason; To ensure a safe and secure layout in accordance with policy DM D2 of the Merton Adopted Sites and Policies Plan 2015.

17. Non standard condition An air quality assessment shall be undertaken and submitted to the Council before development commences. The assessment report, which should include dispersion modelling, shall be undertaken having regard to all relevant planning guidance, codes of practice, British Standards for the investigation of air quality and national air quality standards. The assessment report shall include recommendations and appropriate remedial measures and actions to minimise the impact of the surrounding locality on the development.
scheme of proposed remedial measures shall be submitted for the Council’s approval and implemented to the satisfaction of the Council, prior to the occupation of the residential properties.


18. Non standard condition. No construction may commence until a section 278 Highways Act agreement has been entered into with the Local Highways Authority in relation to those works comprising a new on street loading bay to service the development, provide a new vehicle access point and reinstate the pavement where the current vehicle access is located. Reason; To ensure a satisfactory appearance for the development and to improve parking and servicing for this development and ensure compliance with policy DM D4 of the Adopted Merton Sites and Policies Plan 2014 and policy CS 20 of Merton's Core Planning Strategy 2011.

19. Non standard condition. No development approved by this permission shall be commenced until a scheme for the provision of surface water drainage has been implemented in accordance with details that have been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The scheme for disposing of surface water by means of a sustainable drainage system (SuDS) to ground, watercourse or sewer in accordance with drainage hierarchy contained within the London Plan Policy 5.13, shall be in accordance with the approved submitted drainage strategy (produced by Cole Easton Ltd Dated march 2016 Rev 2). The final drainage scheme include the following:

i. provide information about the design storm period and intensity, the method employed to delay (attenuate provision no less than 47.5m3 of storage) and control the rate of surface water discharged from the site to no more than 5l/s the measures taken to prevent pollution of the receiving groundwater and/or surface waters;

ii. include a timetable for its implementation;

iii. include a CCTV survey of the existing surface water outfall and site wide drainage network to establish its condition is appropriate.

and

iii. provide a drainage management and maintenance plan for the lifetime of the development.

Reason: To ensure satisfactory means of surface water drainage, to reduce the risk of flooding and to comply with the following Development Plan policies for Merton: policy 5.13 of the London Plan 2015, policy CS16 of Merton’s Core Planning Strategy 2011 and policy DM F2 of Merton's Sites and Polices Plan 2014.
Non-standard condition. No infiltration of surface water drainage into the ground is permitted other than with the express written consent of the Local Planning Authority, which may be given for those parts of the site where it has been demonstrated that there is no resultant unacceptable risk to controlled waters. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details. 
Reason; Infiltrating water has the potential to cause remobilisation of contaminants present in shallow soil/made ground which could ultimately cause pollution of groundwater in accordance with policy DM EP4 of the Adopted Merton Sites and Policies Plan 2014

Piling or any other foundation designs using penetrative methods shall not be permitted other than with the express written consent of the Local Planning Authority, which may be given for those parts of the site where it has been demonstrated that there is no resultant unacceptable risk to controlled waters. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details. 
Reason; Piling or any other foundation designs using penetrative methods of foundation design on contaminated sites can potentially result in unacceptable risk to underlying groundwater in accordance with policy DM EP4 of the Adopted Merton Sites and Policies Plan 2014

Non standard condition Due to the potential impact of the surrounding locality on the development the recommendations to protect noise intrusion into the dwellings as specified in the Acoustic Report by WSP/Parson Brinckenhoff Report no: 70016119 shall be implemented as a minimum standard. Details of the final scheme shall be submitted for approval to the Planning Authority prior to the commencement of the development. Vibration within the dwellings shall not exceed the range of ‘low probability of adverse comment’ as detailed in BS6472:2008 Human Exposure Vibration in Buildings. 
Reason; To protect the amenity of future occupiers from noise and vibration disturbance in accordance with policies 7.15 in the London plan 2015 and DM D2 of the Merton Sites and Policies Plan 2014

M2 Contamination
M3 Contamination remediation
M4 Contamination –validation report.

No part of the development hereby approved shall be occupied until evidence has been submitted to the council confirming that the development has achieved not less than the CO2 reductions (ENE1), internal water usage (WAT1) standards equivalent to Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4.

INFORMATIVES:
It is the responsibility of the developer to make proper provision for drainage
to ground, watercourses or a suitable sewer. In respect of surface water it is recommended that the applicant should ensure that storm flows are attenuated or regulated into the receiving public network through on or off-site storage. When it is proposed to connect to a combined public sewer, the site drainage should be separate and combined at the final manhole nearest the boundary. Connections are not permitted for the removal of ground water. Where the developer proposes to discharge to a public sewer, prior approval from Thames Water Developer Services will be required (contact no. 0845 850 2777).

As the application site is adjacent to Network Rail’s operational railway infrastructure, it is strongly recommended that the developer contacts Network Rail’s Asset Protection Sussex team at - AssetProtectionSussex@networkrail.co.uk, prior to any works commencing on site. Network Rail recommends the developer agrees an Asset Protection Agreement with them to enable approval of detailed works. More information can also be obtained from their website at www.networkrail.co.uk/aspx.

To view Plans, drawings and documents relating to the application please follow this link

Please note that this link, and some of the related plans, may be slow to load