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To whom it may concern:

Further to my email dated 29th January 2021, I would ask, is the Council aware that hedgehogs are in situ on Mitcham Common and Golf course? I have monitored sightings on the common over the last 10 years and their numbers have dropped dramatically. I am currently over-wintering a youngster which my German Shepherd dog found in a very weak state in early December on the Common, not far from where the proposed new access road will be. The youngster weighed just 200 grams. See photo.



Many parts of the Common are cleared annually with Scrub Clearance Works, which has resulted in favoured hedgehog habitats and nesting sites being destroyed. Checks may be carried out at the time of clearance but that does not mean there are no hedgehogs in the area and hedgehogs can travel over 2 miles in their search of food each night. The area where the new road is proposed to run through is ideal hedgehog habitat. Considering that our national little mammal is protected and numbers in the UK have become critically low, every effort should be made to protect hedgehogs. Their habitat must be retained for them to survive and sadly, this is not happening at present.

A new access road running through this area is too disastrous to contemplate. Much wildlife would be killed in the construction and essential habitat destroyed. Never to be replaced.

Little by little, the Common is being paved over. The construction of the cyclepathway in Croydon Road and Beddington Lane resulted in a loss of many mature trees; too many; grassland edges favoured by small wildlife and insects destroyed; many mature trees were felled during the tramworks extension; don't even mention nearby Beddington Farmlands. An environmental disaster! It just

goes on and on. And now this proposed access road running through previously untouched wooded area. Heartbreaking.

As for the local residents who currently have the pleasure of beautiful trees nearby, mopping up vehicle fumes, and the sound or birdsong, they will instead have to endure the disruptive noise of lorries endlessly passing by, plus filthy lung damaging fumes to breath in. How dreadful is that!

This Proposal must be rejected. It is far too damaging for both people and the environment.

Kind regards.