



Friends of Mitcham Common

Working to Protect the Common and its Wildlife

www.friendsofmitchamcommon.org email: friendsofmitchamcommon@gmail.com

Correspondence address:
Melanie Nunzet
24 Walsingham Road
Mitcham CR4 4LN

15 January 2021

MERTON LOCAL PLAN – submission

Friends of Mitcham Common is dedicated to protecting the wildlife and widening the public interest and understanding of Mitcham Common. We are over 60 years old and have a membership of more than 350 people.

We welcome the clear recognition of the value and importance of Mitcham Common in the draft Merton Local Plan and support:

- Policy N3.2 to conserve and enhance the historic environment of Mitcham Common
- Policy O8.7 recognising Mitcham Common as part of the wider Wandle Valley Regional Park and the opportunity to connect it as part of the wider area of green space which includes Beddington Farmlands and Beddington Park
- Continuing designation of Mitcham Common as Metropolitan Open Land without any boundary changes
- Continuing designation of Mitcham Common as Open Space
- Continuing designation of Mitcham Common as a Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation
- Continuing designation of Mitcham Common as a Green Corridor
- Continuing designation of parts of Mitcham Common as an Archaeological Priority Zone

We ask that Policy N3.2 is strengthened to recognise the natural, recreational and cultural as well as historic value of Mitcham Common. This would be consistent with the rest of the draft Plan.

We ask that Policy D5.2 is strengthened to recognise the Wandle Vista on Mitcham Common that was identified in the award winning research commissioned by Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust, Wandle Valley Forum and Living Wandle.

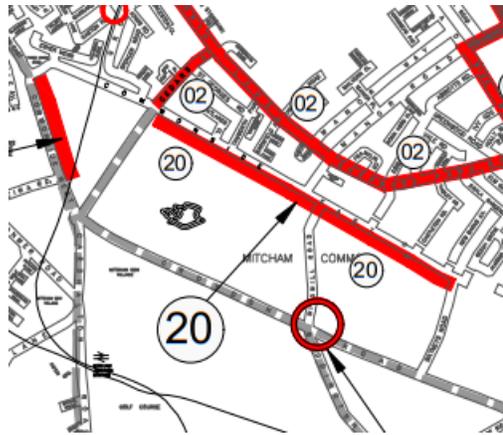
We do not support the following two proposals:

1. New access road across Mitcham Common to Willow Lane Industrial Estate (TN17). This is a shocking proposal that would involve the loss of a significant part of Mitcham Common west of Carshalton Road. It conflicts with the Plan's emphasis on conserving and enhancing Mitcham Common and would result in significant tree felling and loss of wildlife habitat. It would be a new source of air and noise pollution and further fragment the Common. We understand earlier proposals for a road were dropped in the 1990s and there is now much greater

recognition of the wildlife, recreational, historic and cultural value of Mitcham Common and the impacts of air pollution and climate change. There is no evidence provided in the draft Plan to justify such a damaging development and our objection is unequivocal

2. Removal of Site 26 (Ravensbury Arms) and 26a (Miller & Carter Steakhouse) from the Green Corridor when the car parks and other external areas continue to perform an important role

The Plan also references proposals to “*Investigate potential 2 way cycle track on common land between Cedars Avenue and Watneys Road (subject to approval from the Mitcham Common Conservators)*”. The details of this proposal are unclear and the mapped information would suggest loss of a linear section along much of the northern edge of Mitcham Common to a dedicated cycleway. Such a proposal would irreversibly harm the characteristic informal boundary of the Common along Commonsides East and replace it with a hard urban edge. We would not support this change and given that the issues have not yet been investigated we ask that the proposal is dropped from the Plan for being premature.



The Plan contains a number of factual errors – e.g. “*Grassroots football*” has not been played on Mitcham Common for many years (paragraph 1.2.16) and Cranmer School does not include any part of Mitcham Common but is referenced as being the location of a boundary change.

A copy of our submission is being shared with Mitcham Common Conservators.