

Hillcroft Lacrosse Club
Imperial Fields
Bishopsford Road
Morden
SM4 6BF
4th January 2019

Merton Council
London Road
Morden
SM4 5DX

Dear Sir or Madam,

Re: Site Mo3 Imperial Sports Ground (Tooting and Mitcham Hub)

I am writing to you on behalf of Hillcroft Lacrosse Club (Hillcroft LC), in my capacity as Club Chair, to support the above application for the development of the Imperial Sports Ground.

A mixed-gender lacrosse club based at the Tooting and Mitcham Hub at Imperial Fields, Hillcroft LC is the second-largest community lacrosse club in the south of England. With more than 75 playing members and an extensive alumni network, we field three men's teams and one women's team on a weekly basis in recreational league and cup competitions across England.

The development of the Imperial Sports Ground is an innovative proposal, with the potential to transform an unused plot of land with no landscape or ecological value into much needed affordable housing for local people. A logical area of land to release from classification as Metropolitan Open Land, This would help contribute to the delivery of broader regeneration objectives, and with good road frontage, being next to existing houses and the site's great accessibility to public transport, we consider the unused plot of land to be a logical area to release from classification as Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) – it should not be classed as MOL as it serves no useful purpose at present.

We understand that the monies raised by the development would be re-invested into the existing public-private partnership, helping to secure the long-term future of the Tooting and Mitcham Hub.

Tooting and Mitcham United's Strategic Plan responds to both local and national agendas for improving sport, health and wellbeing, education and enterprise, and enabling the development of two further valuable community-based buildings, this development will provide the financial stability required to deliver the Plan and support the facilitation of social enterprise, driving significant benefits for the local community.

This is a unique opportunity to deliver a truly sustainable development that hugely benefits the Merton community, and I hope you will support this application.

Yours sincerely,

Ben Jessup, Hillcroft Lacrosse Club Chair 2018/19

