

Merton Priory Trust response to Merton's Local Plan: January 2018

Good morning gentlemen,

The following is a response from Merton Priory Trust, which we think is more appropriately made in a succinct statement than via the consultation website.

1. Merton Priory and Merton Abbey Mills should be recognised and cherished as the historic heart of Merton, after which the borough is named.

2. The Scheduled Monument of the Chapter House should be substantially enhanced, not merely as a museum and educational centre itself but with a step change in the quality of the surrounding townscape, acknowledging its national significance as a heritage asset.

3. Access to, signage of and connection between all Merton's heritage sites (Chapter House, Precinct Wall, Liberty Site, Morris Site, Nelson Site, Surrey Iron Railway Route, Wandle Trail, Deen City Farm, Morden Hall, Ravensbury Mill, Watermeads) should be upgraded to create a distinct heritage hub and visitor attraction, threaded with high quality pedestrian routes, parks, planting and landscape, and with the proper presentation of historic buildings,

Any policies that promote this, and improve the townscape within the area of the Scheduled Monument, would be welcomed.

John Hawks
Vice Chair, Merton Priory Trust