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Reference : SITE Mo3 IMPERIAL SPORTS GROUND (TOOTING AND MITCHAM HUB)

To Merton Council for your consideration.

As a lifelong supporter of Tooting and Mitcham United Football Club I would like to add my support to the Site Mo3 Imperial Sports Ground (Tooting and Mitcham Hub) residential development application.

The acute lack of affordable housing in the area makes this piece of land ideal for regeneration which can only benefit the local community. As far as I am aware, this piece of land has no specific ecological benefit and, if left as it is, will degenerate further. I've never seen anybody using this space for leisure purposes such as dog-walking or any form of sport apart from illegal motorcycle riding! As it is situated close to the main road it benefits from great transport links and a development would certainly blend in with local surroundings and smarten up the area.

As I understand the situation, this proposal would bring much needed investment in facilities at the Hub through development of new community-based buildings and help deliver the strategic plan for sustainable future development. This will benefit members of the local community and also provide opportunities for local enterprise. Through my work with the football club I've seen the number of individuals and local groups of all abilities who use Hub facilities on a daily basis and expanding on what is currently available would be a tremendous benefit to them.

The diversion of local youngsters into sporting activity and their subsequent development also has to be considered. Having watched Michail Antonio progress from a youngster at TMUFC into a Premiership star at West Ham United just goes to show what can be achieved with a combination of hard work, support and good local facilities. Hopefully, approval of this application and the subsequent development will inspire our current and future players as well as delivering a much needed local focus for the community.

In conclusion, improving sporting facilities and developing health, wellbeing, education and enterprise within Merton has to be beneficial for the community and I hope you will support this application for development.

Yours sincerely