



## The Residents' Association of West Wimbledon



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Tara Butler  
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Local Plan 2020

Dear Tara,

The Residents' Association of West Wimbledon offers the following comments on the Raynes Park section of 'Our Places':

### Site RP1 – Amity Grove Health Centre

Proposals in the plan for shared community and residential use are supported. RAWW proposes additional guidance on the public path adjacent to the site. The plan currently says - 'Any development proposals should recognise, and improve the public footpath adjacent to the site.' The path in question is one of two which link Amity Grove and Durham Road. They provide short cuts for residents of Amity Grove to go to the local shops in Durham Road and the 200 bus route. They are not essential routes but they complement the network of local paths. The footpath alongside the former Health Centre differs from the alternative route adjacent to 47/49 Amity Grove as it is not a direct route. It takes two right-angled turns, leaving the middle section unobserved. The section of the path from Amity Grove to the rear of the Health Centre is exceptionally narrow and at the junction of this section with the much wider route from Durham Road is dark, prone to fly tipping and graffiti and lacks any oversight. The section close to Amity Grove is mainly used as a venue for smokers, antisocial activity and it is alleged, users of illegal substances and possibly an escape route for thieves. These activities spill out onto the footway and cause nuisance to pedestrians.

From Amity Grove, because of the right-angled turns, there is no clear view through to Durham Road and it is regarded as unsafe and threatening, with the middle section dark and enclosed by high fencing without surveillance. We believe the only way this route could be retained would be if it were completely redesigned to make it safe. This would require widening the first part from Amity Grove alongside the Health Centre to the middle section with lighting and resurfacing throughout, with the addition of mirrored surfaces at each end of the middle "leg" to allow visibility through the length of the path. This path, together with the other path linking Amity Grove and Durham Road to the north,

need to be sign posted from Durham Road. More oversight from a new development on site RP1 would also be an improvement.

There is concern that possible future site redevelopment plans should be required to consider the needs of the surrounding residential area. This includes particularly;

- ) Preventing use of the already oversubscribed on street parking by users/residents of the new development with a condition removing rights to business and resident parking permits, and
- ) Not permitting any community use which would generate large volumes of noise.
- ) Ensuring that the development is sympathetic to, and preserves, the protected chestnut tree which makes a positive contribution to the area.

Residents Association of West Wimbledon

CC Raynes Park ward councillors