

Wandle Heritage Ltd response to Merton Local Plan – Jan 2018

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen,

Please forgive me for using the same format as that from MPT for our response from Wandle Heritage, for the same reasons:

1. Wandle Heritage Ltd is the charitable company formed by the London Borough of Merton to maintain and open to the public the historic Liberty Wheelhouse at Merton Abbey Mills. This waterwheel is the single most iconic piece of heritage in the Borough of Merton, in recognition of which it was long ago adopted as the Borough's own logo. A living symbol of the history of the River Wandle, it is the only working example in South London, was restored by private enterprise, is maintained by dedicated volunteers, and indeed until recently was sponsored by LBM.

3. We believe that both Merton Priory and Merton Abbey Mills should be recognised and cherished as the historic heart of Merton, after which the Borough is named. Every opportunity to enhance and capitalise on the waterwheel should be taken as a uniquely precious part of the Borough's historic fabric.

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 would be welcomed.

John Hawks
Vice Chair, Wandle Heritage Limited,
The Wheelhouse,
Merton Abbey Mills, SW19 2RD.