

14.03.2013

Dear Mr David Williams

Request to Assist the Local Scout Movement in Merton and the surrounding Boroughs

Consultation on Planning Policy and designation of Open Space

Dear David once again we are seeking your assistance with the Council.

The Greater London South West Scout County are seeking assistance in a consultation process with Merton Council regarding the Council's proposed policy to zone the scout hut in **Cannon Hill Lane**, Lower Morden, as Open Space and thereby making it impossible for us to use the site for the training of adult and young adult volunteer leaders.

The site was incorrectly ring-fenced in 2003 but the mistake was about to be corrected in 2007 when it was formally proposed to be declassified, but other issues unfortunately took precedent and nothing happened, and therefore the current consultation document, which no doubt you are aware of, maintains that inaccurate classification.

The basis for why, the scouts' 0.1 hectare site with our existing Scout hut and surrounding out-buildings, should not and were not classified as a Park, Common, Play Ground, Sports field, Allotment etc., are as follows:-

The scout site has and had no links with the All England Tennis Club playing fields.

The site was initially used as a builder's yard for the construction of Houses on Cannon Hill Lane before it was leased for a pepper corn rent to the Scout Association and used for the youth of the area.

The freeholder of the Cannon Hill properties still uses the land for access and storage, to maintain the maisonettes.

At no point has the scout site or the adjoining plot had public access without express consent or enrolment into the freeholder's organization.

The original 2003 policy maps created by aerial photography and OS mapping shows our site as not being a dwelling, mostly open with a pavilion sized building and adjacent

Greater London South West County Scout Council

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LOWBOATING OFFROAD CYCLING
GLIDING PARASCENDING PONY TREKING POT HOLE
BALL QUAD BIKING RAFT BUILDING ROWING SAILING SCRAMBLING SCUBA
LINGS SHOOTING SINGLE PITCH CLIMBING SKIING SNORKELLING SNOWBOARDING
NETSPORTSSUBAQUASURFINGSWIMMING WATERSKIING WHITEWATER RAFTING
PINGZORBING ABSEILING AERIAL RUNWAY ARCHERY BALLOONING BANDS BOU

to the playing fields. With no additional representation it is understandable how that land was incorrectly 'ring-fenced' as playing field open space.

The site was corrected declassified in the Open Spaces LDF Proposals 2007, as our site has nothing to do with the playing fields.

Our site is also very small. (0.1ha)

Our site is not open green space. (Half the site is compacted hard standing with a further 10% covered by buildings, only the area to the rear has become overgrown whilst it's future has been discussed)

Currently the land has no public access of any kind as it is currently being used for pre-production scout gang shows. The hut last had standard scout meetings 3 years ago)

The site is non-standard shape (long and thin)

In addition the site meets virtually all of the 'Very small areas' exceptions on page 446 Merton's 'Potential sites and draft policies maps' January 2013

We therefore sincerely request that, if you can, once again you do all that you can to ensure that the Council, when it considers the 'Future Merton' consultation, does not consider that our long established scout site warrants safeguarding as open space by means of designation on the Policy Map. We maintain that the 2007 formal proposals were correct, in respect to our small site.