

Wimbledon Community Association

"Serving the community for over 65 years"

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Future Merton
London Borough of Merton
12th Floor Civic Centre
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30 August 2013

Dear Sir / Madam

Response to the Merton Sites and Policies Plan

The Wimbledon Community Association (WCA) unfortunately had to relinquish its interest in the Wimbledon Community Centre in 28 St Georges Road (Site Proposal 31) to the Council in June this year as a consequence of the building falling into disrepair and the related financial difficulties which followed.

The WCA is continuing as a body and has undertaken an initial survey of the current / former members and users at St Georges Road. Output from that is being used to help inform its future strategy and how best to apply the resources from the sale of the WCA's interest at 28 St Georges Road.

A key finding from the survey was that organisations wish to hire space in central Wimbledon but find it difficult to hire affordable accommodation, particularly larger spaces. Further research is to be carried out.

A number of sites have previously been earmarked as potential locations for the WCA. The Merton Sites and Policies Plan has highlighted possible community use on a number of potential sites including the Library site (Site Proposal 16) – now no longer targeted for redevelopment, the 'P3 Site' (Site Proposal 01) and the 'P4 Site' (Site Proposal 28)

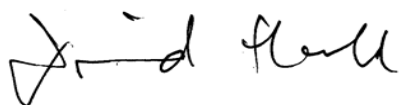
The WCA is in discussion with various organisations, in particular the SWL YMCA (Site Proposal 62), with regard to helping meet that need.

We will continue to develop our plans to support replacement facilities in central Wimbledon. We also wish to continue working with the Council to help meet those needs.

The Council had a two thirds interest in the site at St Georges Road and we understand the site is to be used as a temporary car park following its demolition. In due course we feel it is important that the Council also uses its resources from its original two thirds interest in the site to help support replacement community facilities in Wimbledon.

We would welcome the opportunity to continue the dialogue with the Council following the end of the consultation period.

Yours faithfully



David Hall
Chair of Trustees