

Future Merton
London Borough of Merton
12th floor Merton Civic Centre
London Road
Morden SM4 5DX

24th July 2012

Local Development Framework

Dear Sirs,

1. I am writing in response to the consultation in respect of the Local Development Framework, and specifically the Raynes Park area.
2. In 2008 the Council produced the Raynes Park Enhancement Plan 2009-2011, which covered areas from Worple Road in the east to West Barnes Lane in the west, and areas south of the railway.
3. As the plan represented a general strategy, the Raynes Park Association, with our close involvement as a member, proposed that a concept design should be prepared to give form to this strategy and to enable S106 monies from the Thames Water and other sites to be spent on specific proposals for improving the public realm.
4. We were appointed to work with the Council to
 - prepare concept proposals,
 - audit street clutter
 - assess and collaborate on the successful removal of hoardings
 - consult with Merton highways department on issues such as the new cycle route
 - meet with Network Rail to discuss land acquisition
 - prepare and attend public consultation on the design options
5. Some of the enhancement works have been completed, and other works remain to be implemented. No works have been carried out south of the station which remains an important opportunity area, particularly with the emergence of proposals for the Rainbow Industrial Estate. Some planning applications and approved developments are occurring south of the station which need to be placed in public realm context
6. We therefore wish to strongly object to the LDF Proposal Map Local Centres Raynes Park. The centre area of Raynes Park has been substantially reduced without any adequate planning justification. The enhancement area north of the railway is reduced, and the old UDP centre boundary has been reduced in its entirety.

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7. It is our view that the local centre boundary should be as shown on the Raynes Park Enhancement Plan in order to provide a comprehensive framework for the enhancement of the public realm in Raynes Park and for future developments within this area.

Tony Edwards
Director

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