



FAO:

G J Fort BA PGDip LLM MCD MRTPI and R J Aston BSc (Hons) DipTP MRTPI

By email to: programmeofficer@carmeledwards.com

19 May 2022

Dear Sirs,

Proposals for Wimbledon Park, Merton Local Plan

I am writing with further evidence relating to the Wimbledon Park Site. In our previous submissions we expressed our view that the plan was unsound given the conflict between policies protecting Metropolitan Open Land and policies promoting development on Wimbledon Park which is designated Metropolitan Open Land.

This evidence relates to **Matter 14:** Is the Wi3 (All England Lawn Tennis Club) allocation justified, and is it in general conformity with the London Plan, consistent with national policy and effective?

- The removal of Metropolitan Open Land designation has not been proposed or justified so we do not understand how the site can be allocated for development in the Local Plan. The site should be removed from the plan to make it sound.
- In any event, the AELTC has access to alternative sites to fulfil its need for courts for practice and qualifier matches, in particular, it has signed a 15 year lease for the Bank of England Club in nearby Roehampton and has access to other nearby courts at Raynes Park.
- There is also an important material consideration which needs to be taken into account: that the Club, when it purchased the site in 1993, undertook to ensure the site would be available for public recreation and not developed. This was set out in a legal covenant and reflected the status of the site as being part of Wimbledon Park. The residents who campaigned for this covenant to be put in place did so because LB Merton held the golf course, park and lake on trust under the Public Health Act 1875 as public open space.

I trust this is helpful.

Yours faithfully
Alice Roberts
Head of Campaigns
CPRE London