

Sent by email to: planning@merton.gov.uk

22 March 2024

Dear London Borough of Merton,

Subject: LPG Comments on **Draft Merton Local Plan. March 2024**

I write as a member of the Planning and Conservation Working Group for London Parks and Gardens (LPG). LPG is affiliated to The Gardens Trust (TGT) — a statutory consultee in respect of planning proposals affecting sites included in Historic England's Register of Parks and Gardens.

LPG is the County Gardens Trust for Greater London and makes observations on behalf of TGT in respect of Grade II registered sites and may also comment on planning matters affecting other green open spaces of historic interest, especially when included in [LPG's Inventory](#). In London Borough of Merton, historic green spaces are listed on the LPG Inventory and will be affected by the Local Plan policies proposed. A list of the sites we regard of heritage merit can be found [here](#).

Given our role as a statutory consultee status as part of The Gardens Trust, we wish to highlight several concerns and suggestions regarding policy N8.1.

1. Heritage at Risk and Policy Recommendations

We recommend removing policy N8.1 and introducing a more targeted amendment to ensure protection of heritage assets at risk. Specifically, we suggest adding a new policy:

- 1. "Proposals affecting heritage assets on the 'at risk' database must comprehensively address the reasons for their at-risk status."*

2. Landscape Management Plan

We propose the development of a Landscape Management Plan for Wimbledon Park, to be collaboratively crafted with key stakeholders including the London Borough of Wandsworth and local community groups. This plan should be completed within one year of this Plan's adoption, with a clear commitment from Merton Council for funding and implementation within five years.

3. Rationale for Adjustments

The existing modification N8.1 does not adequately protect Wimbledon Park's heritage. The focus on development over conservation could undermine the historical and ecological value of the park. Our suggestions aim to realign the plan with national policies on heritage conservation and ensure effective stewardship of Wimbledon Park.

We appreciate Merton's efforts in updating the Local Plan and hope our feedback contributes to a robust strategy that respects and enhances the heritage assets within the borough.

Yours sincerely,

For and on behalf of the Planning & Conservation Working Group

Cc: The Gardens Trust (conservation@gardenstrust.org)