



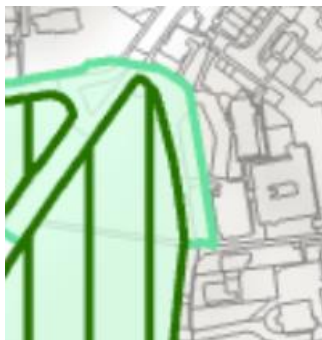
**NEW MERTON LOCAL PLAN – Public Examination – Stage 2
MATTER 11 – Green and Blue Infrastructure**

**Submission from Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage
September 2022**

1. Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage takes an active interest in the future of the Cricket Green Conservation Area and its environs. We are the civic society for this part of Merton and part of the wider civic movement through membership of the national charity Civic Voice. We have been closely involved in the development of the Merton Local Plan and its evidence base and we made detailed representations in September 2021, January 2021, January 2019 and January 2018 on Merton Council's call for sites at Stage 1 of the Local Plan review; the draft Plan for consultation at Stage 2 and Stage 2a; and the submitted Plan at Stage 3. We contributed to Stage 1 of the Public Examination into Merton's new Local Plan
2. This submission confirms our wish to participate in the Examination's hearing session on Matter 11.
3. We welcome the inclusion of the valued open space behind Mary Tate Cottages (AO21) as new Open Space. The site makes a positive contribution to the area as open space by virtue of its character, whether or not it serves as a community garden or allotment. It is also recognised London Historic Parks and Gardens Trust in its [inventory](#) of historic parks and gardens for Merton. We also welcome designation of Bellamy's Copse as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation.
4. We identify a number of further changes to the boundaries or designation of open space needed to make the approach sound:
 - Extend Open Space designation to the green space between Cricket Green road and Date Valley School/Brook House – this is recognised as Metropolitan Open Land but not Open Space

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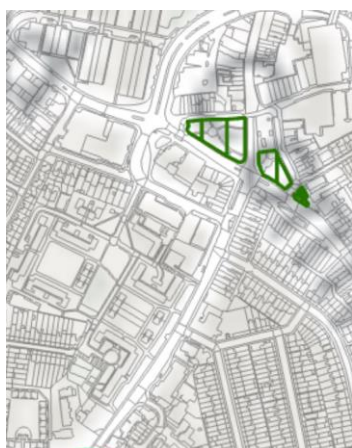
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- Extend Metropolitan Open Land to include Mitcham Bowling Club and the whole of Bellamy's Copse adjacent to Canons Leisure Centre – this is recognised as Open Space

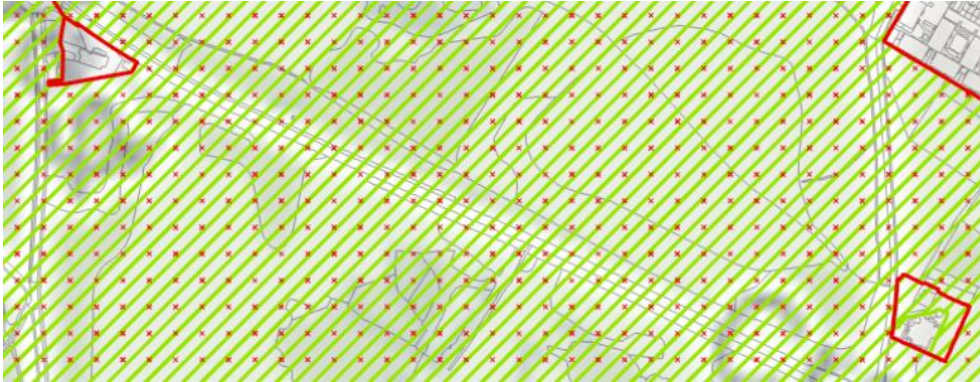


- Extend Open Space designation to include all the green space within Glebe Court and all new green space created through the Rediscover Mitcham investment (which Merton Council has also committed to registering as a village green) – visible on the right

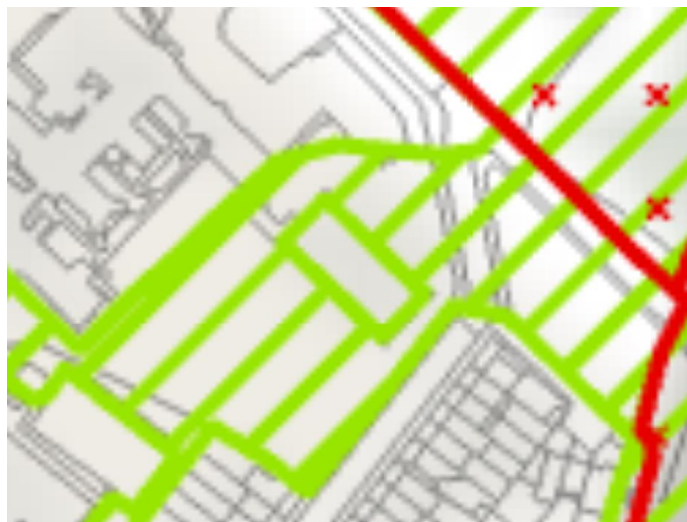


5. These locations were not addressed in the Green Infrastructure Study despite our earlier representations.

6. We do not support the proposed removal of Site 26 (Ravensbury Arms) and 26a (Miller & Carter Steakhouse) from the Green Corridor. The car parks and ancillary external areas continue to provide this function which washes over the sites. The supporting Table wrongly states that "No" boundary changes are proposed to Mitcham Common's designations.



7. We do not support the removal of an area of Site 24 (Wilson Hospital) used for the former drop-in centre from the Green Corridor and Open Space. This is a building with a temporary permission which has expired. Planning permission for the temporary walk-in centre building (14/P0825) was extended to 1 May 2017 by which time *"the use hereby permitted shall cease and the land restored to its former condition."* The building has not been removed and the land has not been restored. NHS Property Services has recently confirmed it has no plans to extend emergency use of the building beyond the end of 2021 after which it is required to be taken away and the ground restored. It would be perverse for these protective designations to be removed just as wider redevelopment of the site is being considered.



8. Policy O15.6 should specifically identify the opportunities for improved access on foot to the Wandle through development in Willow Lane industrial estate, complementing the approach taken to providing an 8m buffer in the draft South London Waste Plan. There is potential for a new public route running along the east side of the Wandle south from Bennett's Hole Local Nature Reserve, enhancing the Wandle Trail and providing a more appropriate boundary with Willow Lane.