

Aurora Centre

Reference: SITE Mo3 IMPERIAL SPORTS GROUND (TOOTING AND MITCHAM HUB)

Dear Sir/madam

Please find attached our letter of support for TMFU's request for land release with intent for affordable housing for the local community and support of a valued community hub. We, at the Aurora Centre, have been working in partnership with TMUFC and the National Trust for 18 months. During that short time, TMUFC have positively impacted and influenced the lives of around 25 of our 50 young adults with disabilities. Not only have they provided work experience, but a valuable and rich window into the wider community, without which, they would not have had the opportunity.

The attached letter holds the signatures of those anonymised students and the core staff team at the Aurora Centre, although the opportunities offered to us by TMUFC is extended to hundreds of individuals here.

Warm regards

Transitions and Assessments officer
(Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays)

The Aurora Centre,
South Thames College, Merton Campus,
London Road,
Morden,
Surrey SM4 5QX 020 8408 6536

We, at The Aurora Centre, part of Merton College, and a specialist provision for young adults with learning disabilities, autism and complex needs, fully support the inclusion of Site Mo3 Imperial Field Sports Ground (Tooting & Mitcham Hub) for residential redevelopment within the new Local Plan because we believe all of the following:

- It will provide much needed affordable housing for local people in a deprived ward contributing to the delivery of broader regeneration objectives.
- It is an unused piece of scrub land with no landscape or ecological value.
- It should not be classed as Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) since it serves no useful purpose.
- It is a logical piece of land to release from MOL for development, with good road frontage and next to other houses.

- It has very good accessibility for public transport including local bus routes and the nearby Tram Link.
- As an 'enabling development' this is an innovative way of delivering community benefits.
- Monies raised will be re-invested into the existing public/private partnership helping to secure the long-term future Tooting and Mitcham Hub.
- It will bring forward the development of two further valuable community-based buildings (ie. new entrance block and a new changing block with educational suite).
- It will provide the financial stability required to deliver the Strategic Plan including the significant community benefits and facilitating social enterprise.
- The TM United Strategic Plan responds to both the local and national agenda for improving sport; health and wellbeing; education and enterprise.
- It is a unique opportunity to deliver a truly sustainable development that benefits the community with the borough of Merton.
- The proposed scheme has an attractive design that will improve the street and incorporates sustainable features.

We, at the Aurora Centre, have been working in partnership with TMUFC and the National Trust for 18 months. During that short time, TMUFC have positively impacted and influenced the lives of around 25 of our 50 young adults with disabilities. Not only have they provided work experience, but a valuable and rich window into the wider community, without which, they would not have had the opportunity.

Names (signatures):

25 students (anonymised)

(transitions and assessments officer)

(Lecturer in Special Educational Needs)

(Senior Support Worker)

(Support Worker)

(Aurora Centre Manager)

(Curriculum Manager)

(Behavioural Specialist and Therapy Lead)

Organisation: Aurora Centre Date: 20/12/2018