

11.6 Planters

Use planters in the following circumstances: In borough centres, local centres and shopping parades, where there is sufficient space to accommodate both them and pedestrians and in accordance with the general principles of design and layout (refer to section 2.3.1).

Also, planters and others elements such as hanging baskets or window boxes can be used, where appropriate, to highlight significant buildings and provide seasonal colour. They should be sensitively located, particularly in the vicinity of historic buildings, and an integral part of the streetscape design.

They should only ever be considered if there is absolute commitment to ongoing maintenance, including regular litter picking, watering as necessary, weeding, pruning, thinning and replacing dead plants.

Planters should never be used merely to infill otherwise unused space within the highway. Consideration should be given to specific site-related aesthetic benefits that might flow from the use of planters and to the impact on views within the street.

Location	Borough centres, local parades
Principles for siting	Where space permits
Manufacturer	Woodhouse/Escofet
Model	Dama Grande
Material	Galvanized Steel
Finish	Polyester powder coated
Colour	RAL 7004



'Cloud Gate' by Anish Kapoor, Chicago Millennium Park



12 Public Art

The LB Merton's Arts Development Team, in consultation with the Arts Consultative Forum, has recently produced the second "Merton's Art Strategy 2007-2010", which fits into the wider Cultural Strategy 2007-2010 and supports the Council's Business Plan and the Community Plan.

Some of the key objectives set on this report are:

- » Celebrate Merton's diverse heritage
- » Settle the foundations for Merton's full participation in the 2012 Olympics;
- » Build cohesive communities and improving mental and physical health;
- » Improve enterprise and business skills or artists and creative industries;
- » Strengthen and promote festivals, events, venues, and artist work spaces.

These objectives can be developed to form the basis of the Public Art Strategy.

In the broader context, public art projects can become an important part of any strategy to further urban regeneration, attract inward investment and encourage interest and pride in the outdoor environment. However, successful public art projects need a setting of high quality public space and architecture. Art can rarely improve a dull, flawed townscape.

Public art stimulates public involvement and can often be used to celebrate the functions of the city, creating character and identity and reinforcing a sense of place. Involving the public through the creation process can help to stimulate a sense of ownership amongst people towards their local area, which in turn can have a positive effect on the future upkeep and help prevent vandalism.

Art in the public realm can be informative and thought provoking, or offer a pleasing distraction from reality. It can also spur community involvement in the design of the urban environment.

The Public Art Strategy must be used as the foundation for the development of all new public art proposals. In addition, the following should be considered as part of public art proposals:

- » Public art can be used as a means of highlighting the significance of a building or space, act as a focal point or signify a gateway. Strategically sited, public art can allow users to identify places and help to improve the legibility of the urban realm.
- » Public artworks can also be woven into the finer grain details of the public realm, for example as carefully sculpted tree guards, railings, signage or street furniture. Used in this way, it becomes an expression of Merton's legacy of innovation and quality craftsmanship.
- » A public art fund could establish a programme of major public art schemes. Following from this, partnership funding could be obtained from the private sector for the development of additional smaller scale projects. Also, "% for Art" funding could be agreed between the Council and private developers as a way of financing public art.
- » Commission permanent work involving local artists in hard and soft landscaping, street furniture, sculpture and lighting. These could include interpretive pieces which complement or express the architecture and environment of the city centre and the character of its citizens.

- » Interactive visual arts using light and sound can further engage interest and add life to public spaces.
- » A changing programme of temporary artworks can also stimulate interest. This could be in the form of rotating exhibitions by local artists and designers.
- » Flags and banners provide vivid splashes of colour and movement within a town centre street scene. These can often be utilised to promote civic events, exhibitions or attractions. It is important that these visually powerful elements are integrated into the overall streetscape scheme. It may be appropriate for artists and graphic design studios to be closely involved with the city and streetscape design team in developing a coordinated approach to such elements.
- » The public could have access to artists and the organisers of the visual arts programme with the provision of a telephone comment line, outreach programmes, active participation and artists in residence projects.

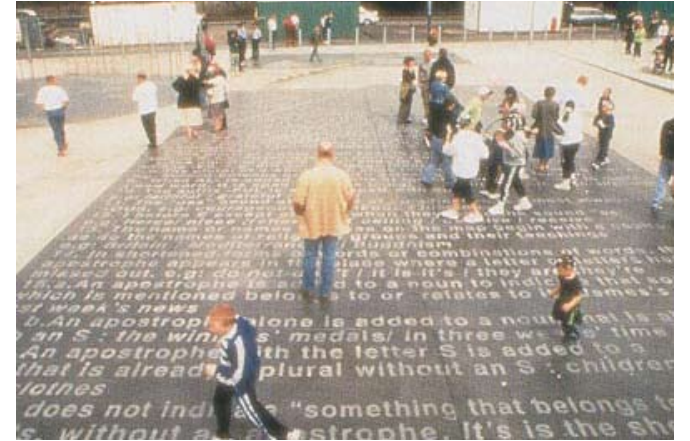
Public art input can occur in a number of ways and artist can be commissioned through:

- » As member of multi-disciplinary team.
- » By the design team as a specialist advisor or researcher.
- » Specially to produce a set public art piece for the project.
- » As a manufacturer or fabricator.
- » As a temporary resident or performer.

Artists can provide a more integrated approach to public art when involved through their early involvement in the project, where they can also extend their interventions to the design of street furniture elements or feature lighting.



William Morris wallpaper



13 Lighting

13.1 Street Lighting

Location	Borough Wide
Principles for siting	
Considerations	Conform to BS 5489-1:2003 and BS EN 13201:2003
	Tapered columns
	Lower level footway lighting should be integrated in town centre locations
	The aim should be to minimise the number of vertical poles by combining uses and signs onto shared poles
Manufacturer	TBC
Model	TBC
Dimensions	TBC
Colour	Poles should be polyester powder coated steel in RAL 7004 to match other furniture
	Poles which are placed in the footway should have a black visibility band at eye level

The general principle for street lighting strategy is to be discrete, ensuring a better integration with the scale of surrounding building and character of the area. Street lighting should be designed to standards that make them easy to adopt. The design should aim to:

- » Reduce street clutter
- » Create safer places and assist in crime prevention by

- » providing sufficient illumination for the public;
- » Create safer carriageways by providing sufficient illumination for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians;
- » Support the legibility and visual coherence of spaces;
- » Consider the architectural scale, character and setting of the space and taking into account the scale, design and ambient levels of the street lighting.

Lighting must take account of the statutory requirements of the Roads Authority to provide levels of illumination required by trafficked streets and ensure safety and security:

- » Lighting fixtures, fittings and columns should, wherever practicable, be incorporated into existing or proposed columns, street furniture and features to reduce the street clutter and the impact of columns in the streetscape and also to provide varying effects and further visual interest;

- » Reduce the height of lighting columns to a more human scale;
- » The 'basic' street illumination from standard facade mounted fittings should be supplemented by various forms of flood lighting, low-level and amenity lighting, together with the ambient light from shop fronts, signs and windows;
- » Opportunities for mounting lights on buildings should be pursued and, after approval from building owners, consideration should be given to avoid and prevent damage to the building's fabric. There is also the potential to light historic building facades to highlight elements of strong character.
- » All fittings should be upgraded to a co-ordinated family, where possible.



Combined lighting and signal poles can significantly reduce street clutter. Note pedestrian oriented lamp in areas of high traffic.



Lighting of trees along strategic routes can highlight existing assets and add visual interest.

- » Fittings should seek to combine facilities such as coloured lights, uplighters and low-level beams. Uplighters can be used to enhance features and low-level beams can be used to spread a wash at street level;
- » Light pollution should be avoided as much as possible.

Strengthened columns must be specified where additional loading capacity is needed, e.g. when mounting other street furniture as traffic signals, CCTV cameras, banners or larger signs. Also, where appropriate, the same column should be used to accommodate both pedestrian and vehicular lighting by providing two heights for the fittings.

Any conflicts between lighting and trees should be resolved through consultation between the different sections of this guidance and a streetscene officer.

The council should promote an increase in the use of energy from renewable sources. Also, it should minimise negative environmental effects from street lighting such as glare and sky-glow.

Exceptions:

- » Historic street lighting should be retained, repaired and brought back into use. Care should be given to do this in an accurate and authentic manner, respecting the historical context and background.
- » In high profile schemes feature lighting could be used to enhance the quality of the pedestrian environment additionally to full filling their function. All proposals that deviate from the councils standards have to be discussed with the council's lighting team, particularly in terms of maintenance and whole-life costing.

Lighting in areas where safety and security is an issue should conform to BS 5489 3/2 Code of Practice for Crime & Safety.

Street lighting has to be designed to standards making them easy to adopt. The council's street lighting section should always be consulted early in the design process so that:

- » the lighting issues and opportunities can be integrated seamlessly within the overall design approach of the project;
- » technical information, maintenance and cost implications are established at the start.

The design of lighting should:

- » Create safer places/contribute to crime prevention by providing sufficient illumination for the public within the public realm;
- » Create safer carriageways by providing sufficient illumination for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians;
- » Assist the legibility and general visual coherence of spaces;
- » Take into account the architectural scale, character and setting of the space when considering the scale, design and ambient levels of the street lighting;
- » Should conform to British Standard 5489 Code of Practice or CEN code (Comite Europeen de Normalisation).

awaiting further lighting details

13 Lighting

13.2 Public Spaces Lighting

The design of the public realm must be able to support after hours activity as well as providing safety and security. Lighting is an important influence on the character of streets and spaces, as well as a basic security requirement during the hours of darkness.

Lighting in public spaces can enliven spaces and create a sense of theatre and drama and use an approach that relates in scale to the pedestrian. It could be used to highlight features, floodlight buildings and generally create a strong and memorable atmosphere.

There is a need to reappraise the overall visual coherence of Merton's lighting and examine the opportunities to further enhance the quality of the environment after dark.

Many public spaces support a range of activities which could benefit from the introduction of a variety of supplementary forms of lighting. Action is required to:

- » Enliven the whole of the public spaces within a borough centre in a visually coherent and interesting manner;
- » Employ lighting which is contemporary, has multiple fittings mounted per pole and is appropriate to predominantly pedestrian spaces;
- » Lighting should be decorative as well as functional.
- » Amenity light sources can contrast in colour with the standard street lighting source;
- » Ensure that the public spaces are sufficiently well lit to promote personal safety;
- » Encourage the appropriate use of decorative and seasonal lighting;

- » Encourage creative thinking in the relationship between public space and advertisement lighting;
- » Promote policies to encourage well lit shopfront window displays;

Amenity lighting / Special events

Consideration must be given to amenity lighting to ensure that there is ample provision for any special events which may take place throughout the year. Activities such as festivals continue through the hours of darkness and require more illumination than that provided by regular street lighting.

- » Suitable power sources must be offered to power such events.

Amenity Lighting / CCTV

The introduction of lighting in the public realm can increase the perception of safety in the area. In addition, the introduction of CCTV cameras to streets and spaces has been proven to reduce vandalism and crime. By integrating lighting solutions with monitoring equipment and help buttons, an area's safety is substantially increased.



Multiple fixtures on poles can assist with clutter reduction



Wall mounted fixtures can also reduce clutter



Multiple fixtures on poles can assist with clutter reduction



In-ground lighting can highlight an important space



Coloured lighting can be integrated into design to highlight structures



Inground uplighters can highlight trees

14 Parking

14.1 Parking in Front Gardens

The Council has published a detailed package “Vehicle Crossover Information Pack” on advise about garden conversions for parking purposes. It defines procedures and methods to follow and advises on materials to use.

Permission needs to be sought from the Council for a vehicular crossover before converting the front garden. After permission is granted, the garden conversion needs to be finished before the implementation of the crossover.

Under Section 163 of the Highways Act 1980, it is the responsibility of the property owner to provide adequate drainage for surface water so that it does not flow or fall onto the public highway. To achieve an adequate drainage use permeable or semi-permeable material for the conversion. Suitable surfacing materials could include:

- » Pervious concrete paving slabs;
- » Paving slabs with sand jointing;
- » Block paving, that incorporates voids or larger joints;
- » Gravel with a stone size of at least 20mm. (Where such gravel is used, a suitable hard surfaced strip of at least 110mm deep must be provided at the property threshold (matching the width of the crossover) to prevent stones spilling onto the pavement.); and
- » Bonded gravel.

A drainage channel should be provided where the paved area meets the back of the footway to collect surface water. The channel should be connected to a “soak away” (i.e. a large, covered hole, measuring approximately 1m², filled with rubble or other granular material) that allows the water to disperse into the ground.

The area of hard surface should be limited to the absolutely necessary and as much planting as possible should be retained.



Examples of suitable front garden parking provision



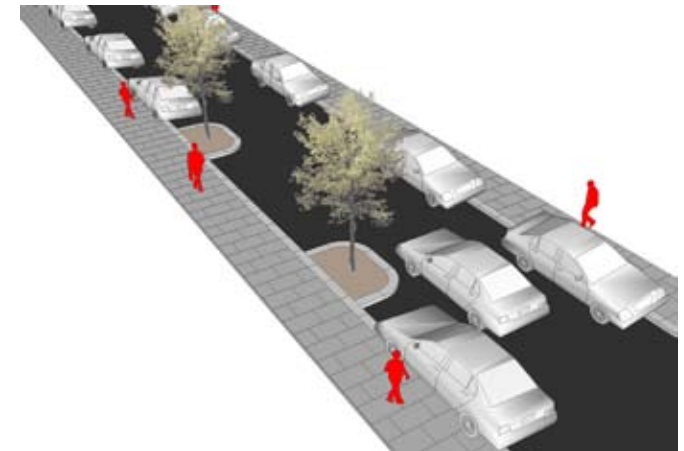
Permeable gravel paving

14.2 Parking on Narrow Streets

On certain residential streets in the borough the street is so narrow that half-on/half-off street parking occurs. Although parking off the pavement should be encouraged in reality enforcing this can be difficult.

In streets where this is prevalent and widening of the roadway is not possible, the following measures should be implemented to insure the integrity of the footway paving:

- » A strengthened zone of 1500mm consisting of a build-up able to take heavier loads, with reinforced slabs
- » Footway build-outs with tree planting and permeable paving
- » Passing zones with no parking enforced



Narrow street detail with half-on/half-off street parking. Passing point for vehicle pull-ins.

15 Advertising

15.1 General Principles

Advertising in the public realm is often an important revenue source for councils, but this must be balanced against the visually demanding nature of a lot of advertising and the desire to create a clutter-free town centre with clear views.

Bill board advertising outside of town centres is permitted but should be situated in a sensitive manner, aiming to complement the street scene, not distract from it. Their design should not compromise road or pedestrian safety. Billboards are not of a suitable scale for town centres.

Smaller free-standing poster boards in the footway should not be used as they can obstruct pedestrian flow, block views of traffic, signals, and add to visual clutter.

Advertising in bus stops should only be used in town centre locations and elsewhere, when it is agreed with local stakeholders. The position of boards should be in line with the pedestrian flow, not perpendicular to it, as this blocks view lines.

Advertising on telephone boxes should be parallel to the line of pedestrian flow and not perpendicular so as to keep view lines clear.

Advertising with moving images or text should be avoided as it can be distracting for both vehicle and pedestrians and adds considerably to visual clutter.

15.2 Banner Advertising

Banners to promote local events should be fixed to lamp posts. A simple double-sided rectangular banner of a standard dimension of 500x1500mm should be used throughout the borough for ease of use, and visual clarity. The finish of the fixing arms should match the lamp pole and should be demounted when banners are not displayed. Graphics used on the signs should be consistent within each town centre at a given time.



Banner advertising integrated with light columns

16 Provision for Events

Where any street and outdoor cultural events take place, suitable cleansing regimes should be employed to the public realm to be maintain acceptable safety and cleanliness standards.

Where any street and outdoor cultural events are programmed to occur, suitable power sources will be offered to power such events. Suitable paving materials will be considered that can withstand food spillage and staining where street events may occur for a reasonable length of time.



Flexibly designed spaces allow for events to take place