



LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON
STREETSCENE DESIGN GUIDE

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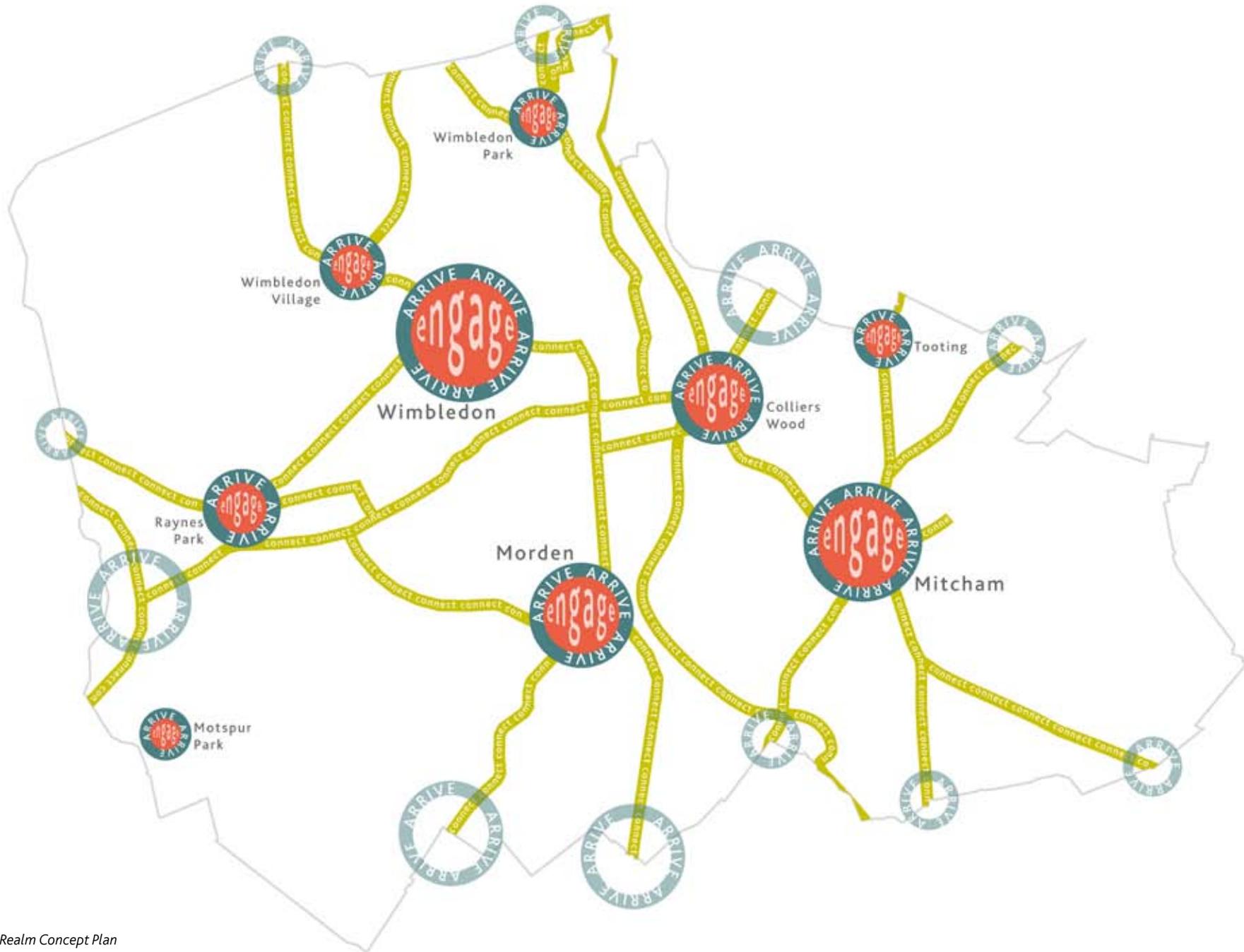
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1 Public Realm Principles

1.1 Introduction

Merton has launched an exciting initiative to enhance the quality of its streets and spaces with the aim of developing and securing its role as a pre-eminent and sustainable place for living and working in London.

This study is intended to replace the existing 'Merton Street Design Guide' and aims to provide practical details which can be used as a reference for design standards. Fundamental to the approach contained within this report has been the principle of ordering the treatment of the street to create an uncluttered, simple and robust public environment based upon the standard 600mm wide British paving module, which has over the years been replaced by inappropriately scaled and patchy paving finishes.

It is envisaged that a commitment through focused investment with partners and considered redesign, during replacement and enhancement programmes, will create a public realm that reflects the aspirations of the people of Merton to create a quality environment in which to live, work and relax, and build on the strong sense of community within the Borough.

This document is to be read in conjunction with the 'Merton Public Realm Strategy' which sets out an analysis of the existing situation and presents an overarching vision for the public realm in the borough.

It should be noted that this guide will be used as a reference for the Council and its partners in future schemes and it is not the Council's intention to replace street scene elements before the end of their useful life unless part of a wider improvement programme or decluttering exercise.

The document is structured as follows:

Public Realm Principles

This section sets out the broad design principles which order the design of the public realm

Detail Design Principles

This section illustrates the detailed design of the various public realm elements including:

- » Surfaces - paving materials and setting-out principles;
- » Sustainability;
- » Street furniture palette and principles for its arrangement;
- » Signage;
- » Trees;
- » Public Art;
- » Lighting;
- » Parking;
- » Advertising;
- » Accessibility.

Maintenance and Management

Defines the responsibilities relating the current and future maintenance of the public realm.

1.2 Public Realm Principles

The public realm strategy sets out the following vision for the improvement of Merton's public realm:

THE VISION IS FOR MERTON'S PUBLIC REALM TO BE UNIFIED BY THE REDISCOVERY OF THE BOROUGH'S GREEN CHARACTER AND THE SIMPLIFICATION OF ITS DESIGN TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT OF REAL QUALITY.

A Green Borough

The Borough of Merton is rich in green space. The vision is to build on this strength and express this green character more strongly in the streets and public spaces of the public realm.

Strong Communities

Merton is structured around a number of small local centres which were historically village centres. These centres are an important amenity and the primary places of interaction for the communities of the borough.

The vision is to design a public realm that through simple uncluttered design allows the local identities of each borough centre to be expressed.

History

Merton has a rich design and manufacturing heritage. The vision is to express this heritage more clearly in the public realm.

Merton was the centre of production of textiles for both William Morris and Liberty, building on a tradition of manufacture in the borough. This heritage is largely invisible today. The vision is to draw on this heritage and its inspiration of natural forms as inspiration for the public realm design.

Vibrant Town Centres

The Borough's town and local centres as well as its' smaller shopping parades are the focus for civic pride, the places where communities interact on a day-to-day level and where businesses serve the population.

Improved public realm in each of the centres reinforced by a cleaner, safer and greener agenda would support them and ensure that they function as hubs for the community to participate in the civic, cultural and economic spheres of the Borough.

In order to achieve this vision the following principles should be the basis of the implementation of this public realm guide:

- » Creation of a consistent, simple public realm through the reduction of unnecessary street clutter, both visual (paving) and physical (barriers and furniture);
- » Minimise the number of footway materials used to a simple complementary palette implemented consistently across the borough to create clarity;
- » Reduce the variety of street furniture to a coordinated palette of simple functional items and carefully consider their placement;
- » Retain items of local history and through simple design allow the varied character of the local centres throughout the borough to be expressed;
- » Create spaces that are legible and compliment the urban form;
- » Creation of a public realm that has a balance between the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and other vehicles;
- » Demand a high quality of workmanship on site to insure that the good design is implemented to its full potential and is long lasting;

- » Define and adhere to standard specifications, details, methods and procedures;
- » Use public art in Merton in such a way that it is related intrinsically to its context and fully integrated into the design of the public realm so as not to appear an afterthought;
- » Creating a safe environment by the careful consideration of designing-out crime from the outset of all projects;
- » The delivery of fewer, high-quality projects rather than compromising quality for short-term gain;
- » The needs of all groups in society should be recognised and the public realm of Merton should be fully accessible to all of these groups;
- » Define and adhere to standard specifications, details, methods and procedures;
- » Make considerations for the future maintenance and management of any improvements from the outset;
- » Establish strict reinstatement regimes for utility companies; and
- » Encourage communication between the various agencies involved in a project to achieve a coordinated delivery and offer best value.



2 Detail Design Principles

Overall Strategy Plan

