



MERTON

Character Study Appendix

Consultation summary

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Urban Practitioners

Solidspace

Consultation summary

Merton Council was very keen that this Character Study had an extensive programme of engagement to help test the emerging ideas and ensure that local residents were happy with the way their neighbourhoods were represented. Covid 19 hit shortly after this study was commissioned which has meant that the plans for consultation have needed to be adapted and evolved to take an online and digital form. Over 450 people have contributed to the engagement process which is an incredible achievement given the recent challenging context.

Quotes from all of the engagement events help to illustrate this report and ensure the voice of local residents is recognised within this study.

Online public survey

A digital survey was designed and went live online between 7 September and 5 October 2020. 416 people responded to this from within all areas of the borough. The survey was designed to test the proposed neighbourhoods and review their boundaries. We also wanted to understand what people valued about each neighbourhood and better understand what could be changed and improved.

This report contains a summary of the responses to this survey, beginning with a review of changes to neighbourhood boundaries as a result of comments.

The second part contains a summary of the comments that were received about each neighbourhood, including direct quotes from the surveys.

Workshop

Separate to this survey, a short survey for community groups was also undertaken, as well as a stakeholder workshop to test ideas and emerging proposals. A write up of this workshop is included within this document.

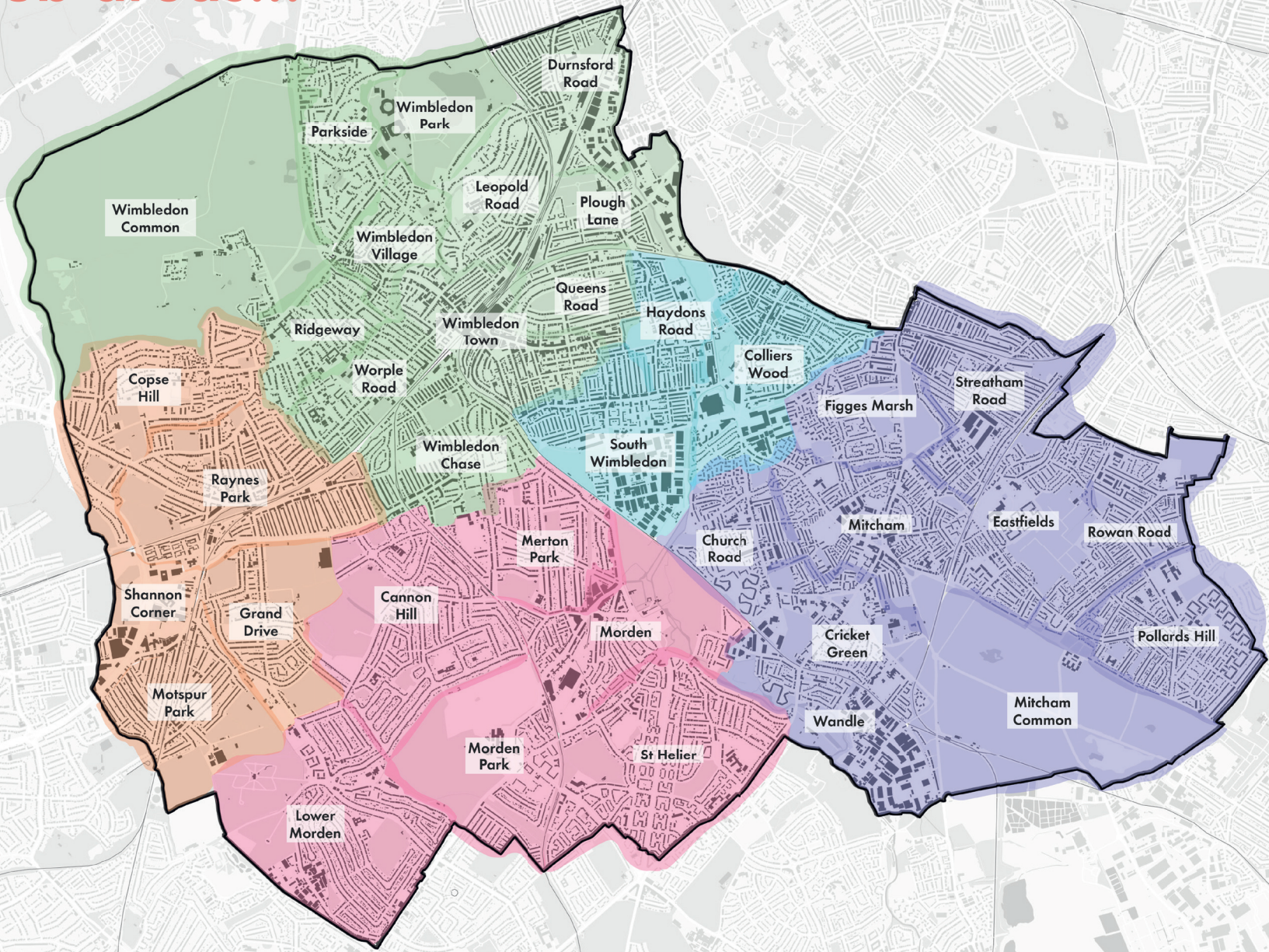
Next steps

The engagement process on this project will continue. The council plans to adopt this report as a Supplementary Planning Document. The consultation period on the draft document will run for 6 weeks from Monday 8 February 2021. The document will be reviewed and amended as a result of this consultation and a final version will be adopted later this year.

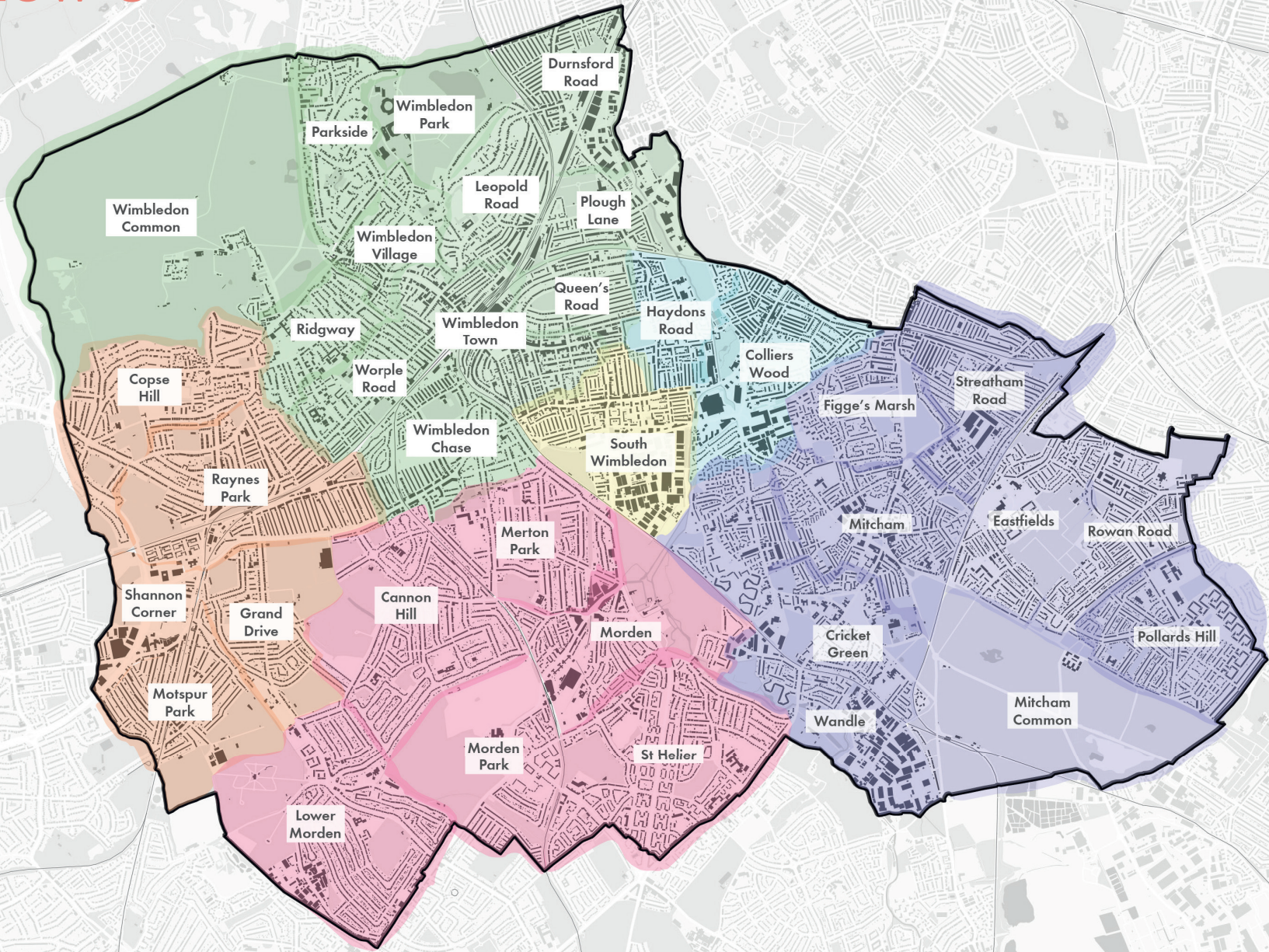


Survey - Boundary changes...

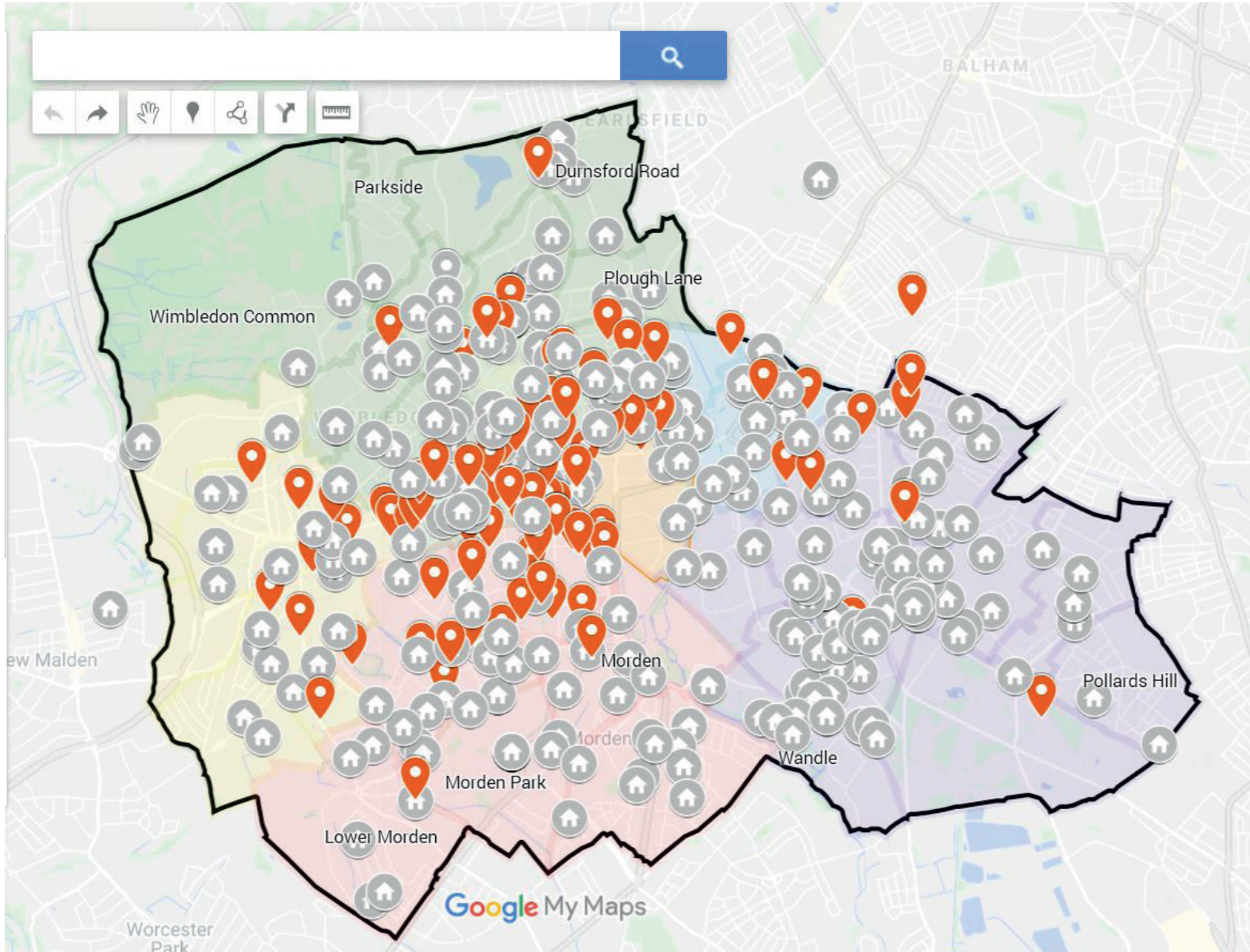
5 sub areas...



...now 6

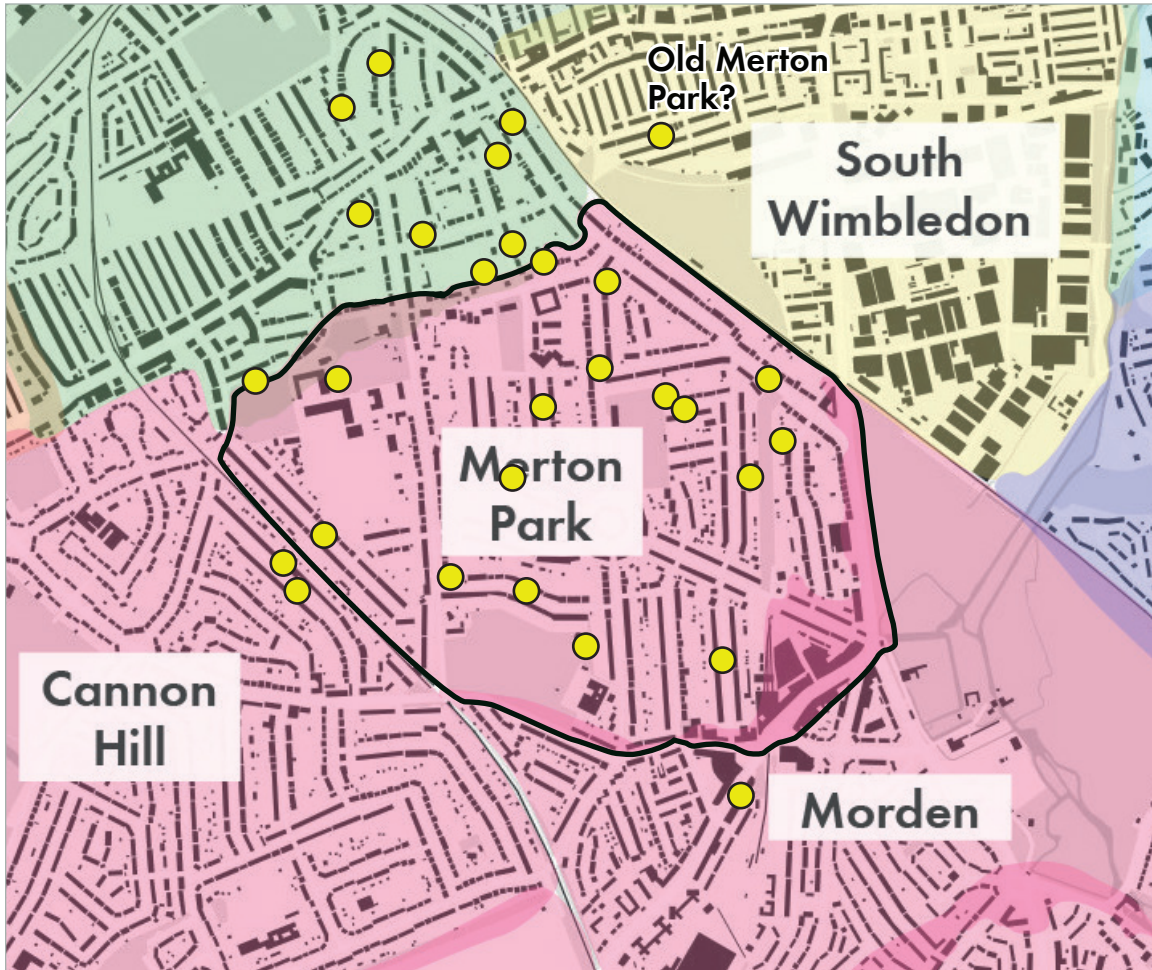


Neighbourhoods review



Summary of key comments on boundaries

• What are Merton Park's boundaries?



Existing boundaries for Merton Park

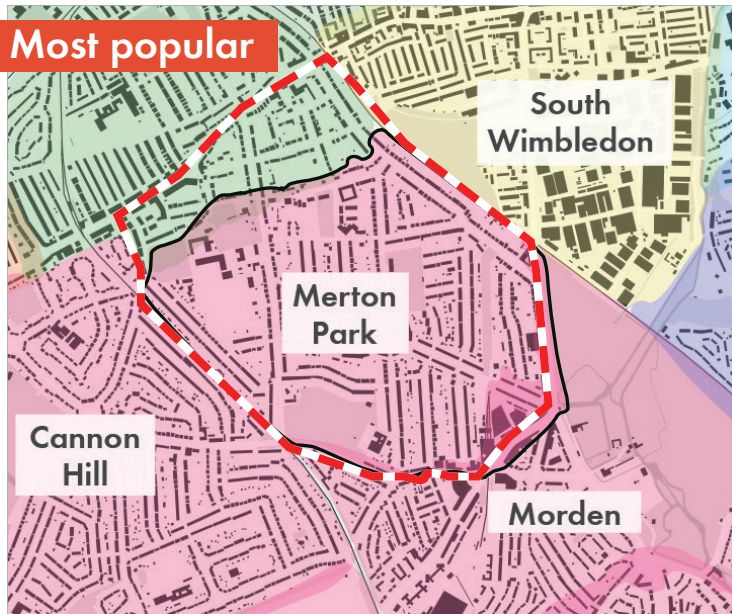
● Residents who disagreed with the boundary and described their neighbourhood as Merton Park

- Some think Kingston Road is the northern boundary, others think Merton Park extends beyond Kingston Road into Wimbledon Chase area.
- General agreement that the tram line forms the eastern edge, although acknowledge Old Merton Park on other side of tramline.
- Some think the Merton Park area should be in Wimbledon, not Morden.
- Some people think it's its own piece - different to Wimbledon and Morden
- Merton Park is more contained? Defined by the arts and crafts houses and gardens of the John Innes developments / the John Innes Estate and the Church / original Garden Suburb and conservation area / parish boundaries of St. Mary's Church?

"Merton Park's boundaries are defined by railway and tram lines, then within that area by age and type of housing. Morden is the major shopping centre on the southern perimeter"

Possible moves...

Most popular



Proposed change:

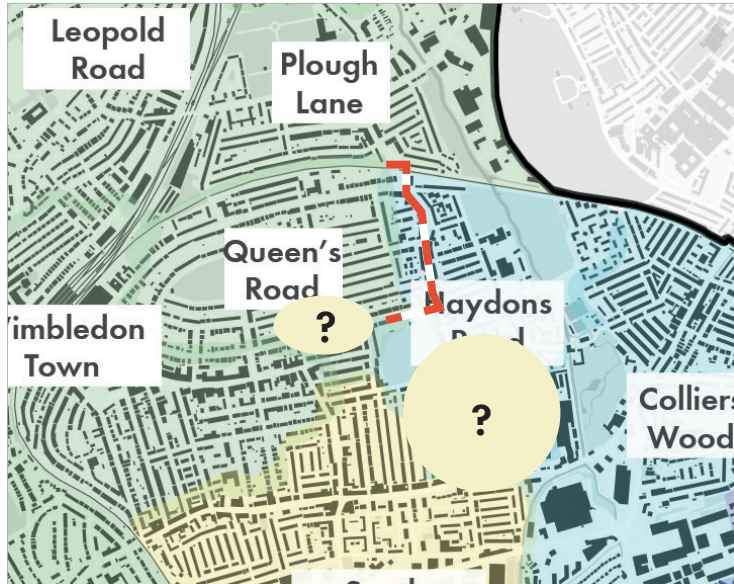
Move boundary northwards to Kingston Road (but include the Kingston Road frontage within Wimbledon Chase)



Summary of key comments on boundaries

- Some consider Haydons Road in Wimbledon, not Colliers Wood. Extend Queen's Road sub area to Haydons Road? Or Haydons Road goes into Wimbledon?
- Queen's Road area seen as South Park Gardens to some - rename?
- **Boundary of South Wimbledon? Does it need to move north into Queen's Road area / Haydons Road area?** A couple of people in Queen's Road area feel they are in South Wimbledon, but others nearby see themselves as in Wimbledon or central Wimbledon.
- Boundary between South Wim and Colliers Wood the Wandle - this would tie in with lots of people west of the Wandle in the Haydons Road area describing themselves as being in South Wimbledon.

Possible moves...



Proposed changes:

Leave Haydons Road in CW but Queen's Road to extend a little eastwards.

Acknowledge South Park Gardens within character area but leave area as Queen's Road.

Extend South Wimbledon boundary north-east to take in the Wandle.

Summary of key comments on boundaries

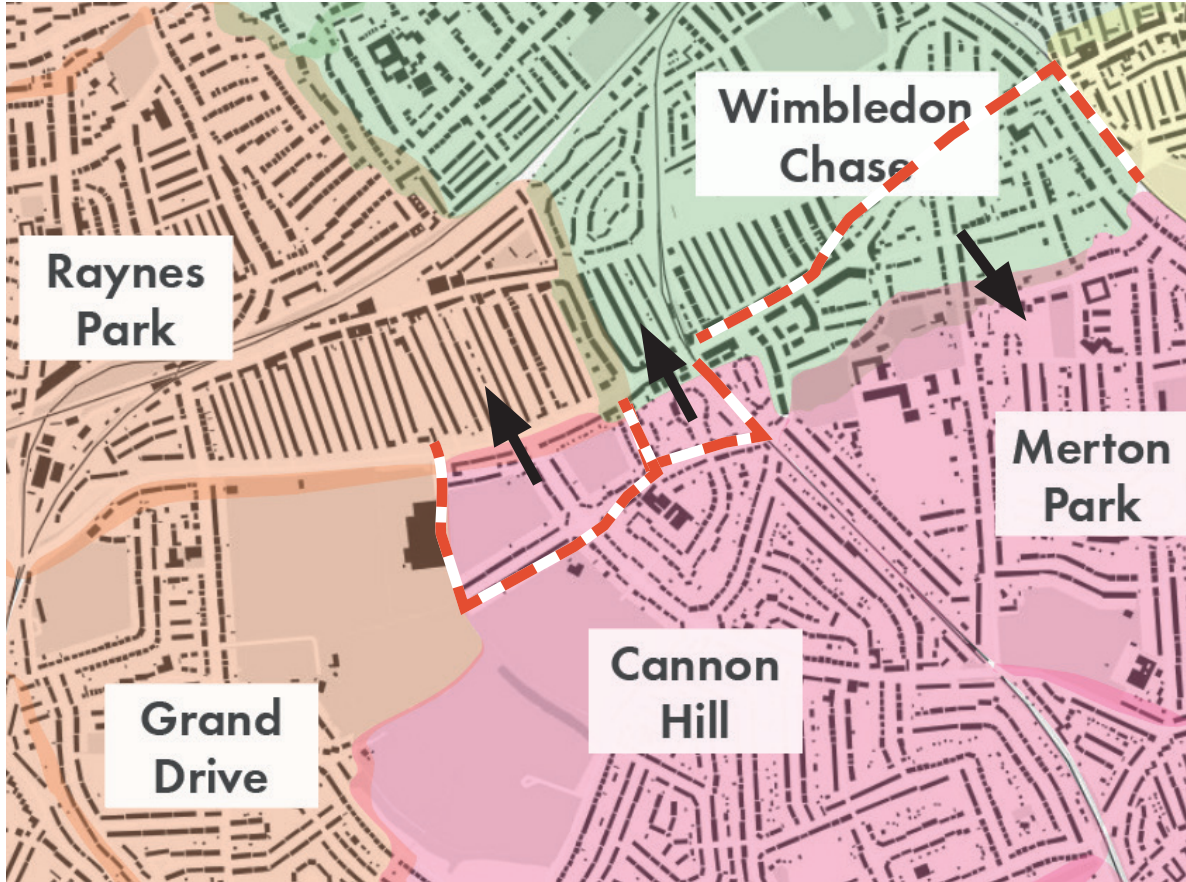
Proposed changes:



Summary of key comments on boundaries

- **Relationship between Raynes Park, Cannon Hill and Wimbledon Chase** - should Raynes Park extend southwards to Cannon Hill Lane?

Possible moves...



Proposed changes:
Take the south side of Bushey Road into Raynes Park but not the whole way

Mawson Way relates south so leave in Cannon Hill

Summary of key comments on boundaries

- **Relationship between Raynes Park and Copse Hill with Wimbledon:**

Some people feel Raynes Park should be smaller and further to west?

Some people feel like the Copse Hill area, especially north of Copse Hill itself is in Wimbledon
Postcodes in the current 'Copse Hill' area identify as living in 'West Wimbledon'

Possible moves...



“Raynes Park is a smaller area than shown on the map, bounded by the A298, Lower Downs Road, Arterberry Road, Montana Road, Conway Road, Hunter Road, Pepys Road, Cottenham Park Road, Oakwood Road, Cambridge Road”

OPTION 1: Copse Hill becomes a Wimbledon neighbourhood.

OPTION 2: Copse Hill deleted as neighbourhood and northern half becomes part of Wimbledon Common and southern part becomes Raynes Park.

OPTION 3: Leave as it is

Summary of key comments on boundaries

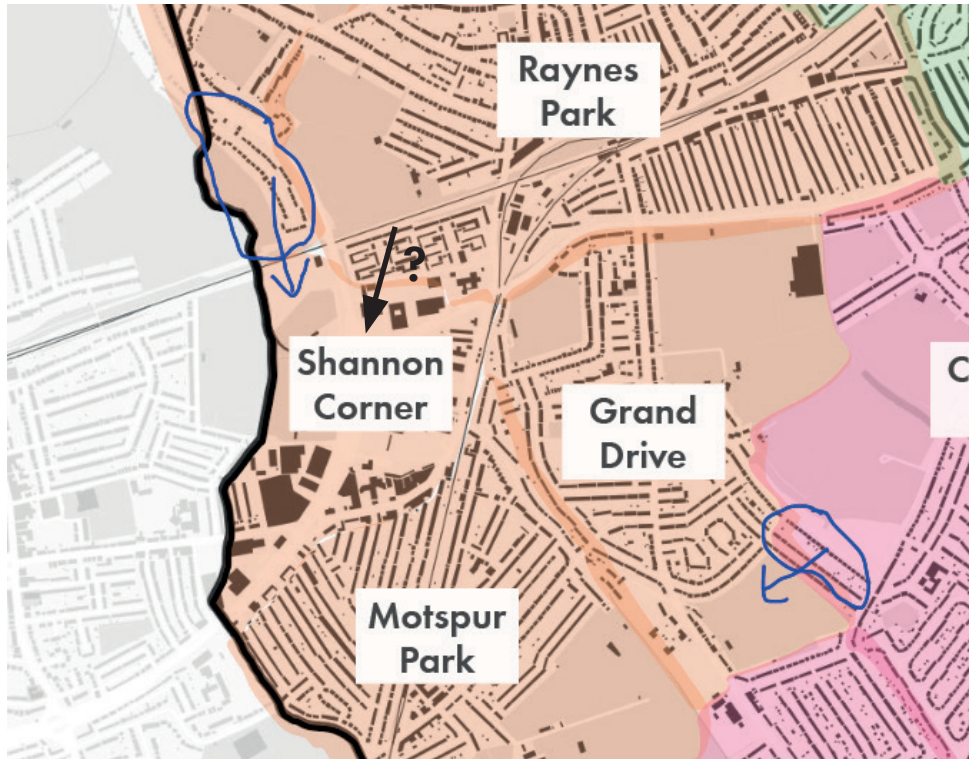
- **West Barnes...is this a neighbourhood?**

Rename Grand Drive West Barnes - lots of people in the Grand Drive area describe themselves as living in Raynes Park or West Barnes - would perhaps be more relatable than Grand Drive.

- However is West Barnes larger than this? Looks like it extends into Motspur Park too...maybe best to leave as is!

- **Grand Drive should take in Parkway**

- **Aboyne Drive should move into Shannon Corner - doesn't fit with Copse Hill - barrier of A3...and Carter's Estate in Shannon Corner too?**



Proposed changes:

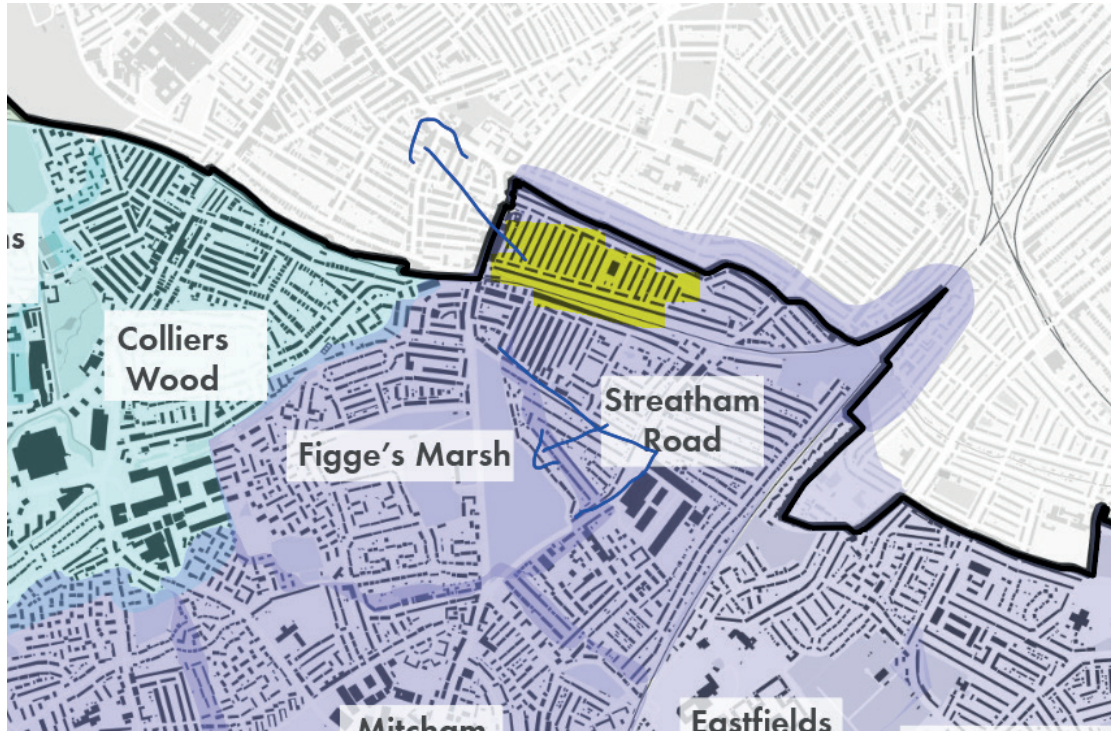
Keep Grand Drive as Grand Drive but reference West Barnes in report

Move Parkway into Grand Drive

Move Aboyne Drive into Shannon Corner

Summary of key comments on boundaries

- Streatham Road - some people feel they living in Tooting! Reference in report?
- Figge's Marsh feels like it should be in the centre of the neighbourhood



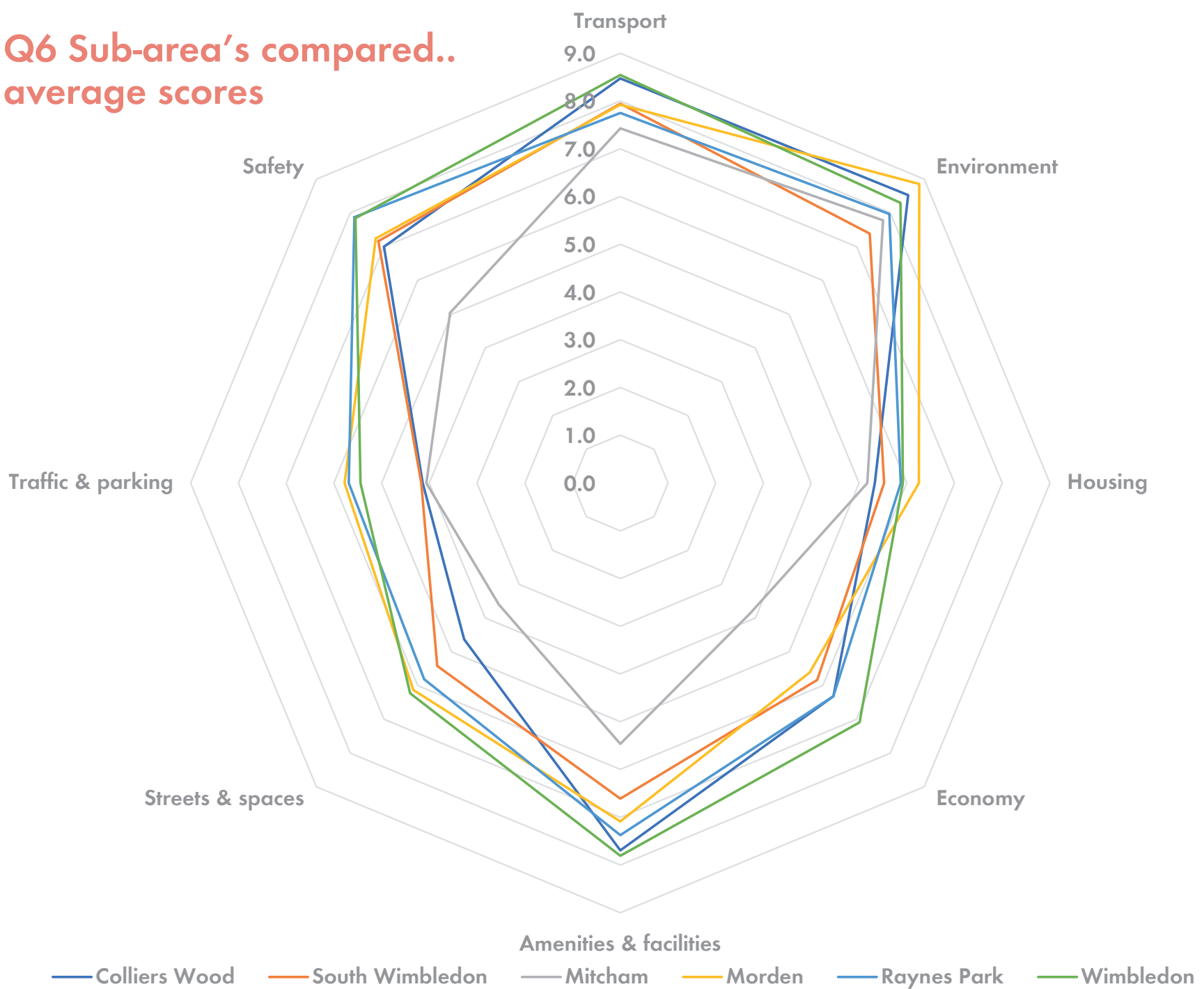
Proposed changes:
Include eastern side of Figge's Marsh into the Figge's Marsh area

Reference relationship with Tooting

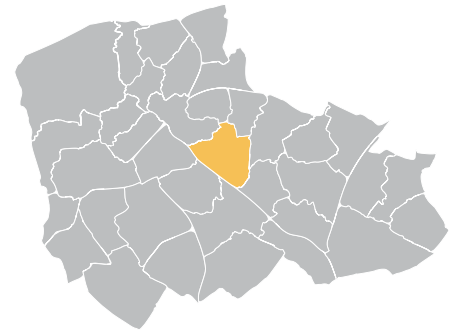


Neighbourhoods feedback summary...

Q6 Sub-area's compared.. average scores



SOUTH WIMBLEDON



What do you think is special about the character of the area where you live?

- The attractive, human scale, Victorian and Edwardian buildings
- Tree lined streets
- Green spaces and city farm
- Local high streets for shopping, dining etc with an independent offer
- The community feel in various groups of streets and South Wimbledon as a whole - family friendly. Active community and residents groups with events - use of schools at weekends by community and faith groups
- Easily accessible to central London and Surrey
- Historical interest (Nelson's Ownership of Property In The Past) and proximity to Merton Priory.

Are there any areas in your neighbourhood that need improving? Why?

- South Wimbledon station - needs greening and junction improvements. How can this become more of a destination? Leisure, culture and community uses?
- Parks needs to have better facilities (Cafes, more gardens rather than just grass etc...).
- Housing estate behind South Wimbledon tube needs to be maintained better.
- Kingston Road - public realm and development sites (car garages, vacant hall)
- Support local shops by investing in public realm, widen pavements and shopfronts improvements. Protect space for businesses (no more resi conversions)
- Dominance of traffic and improved cycling and linked paths
- Diversification of retail on Merton High Street
- Litter/fly tipping/potholes
- Better integration of new development style with existing character of the area.

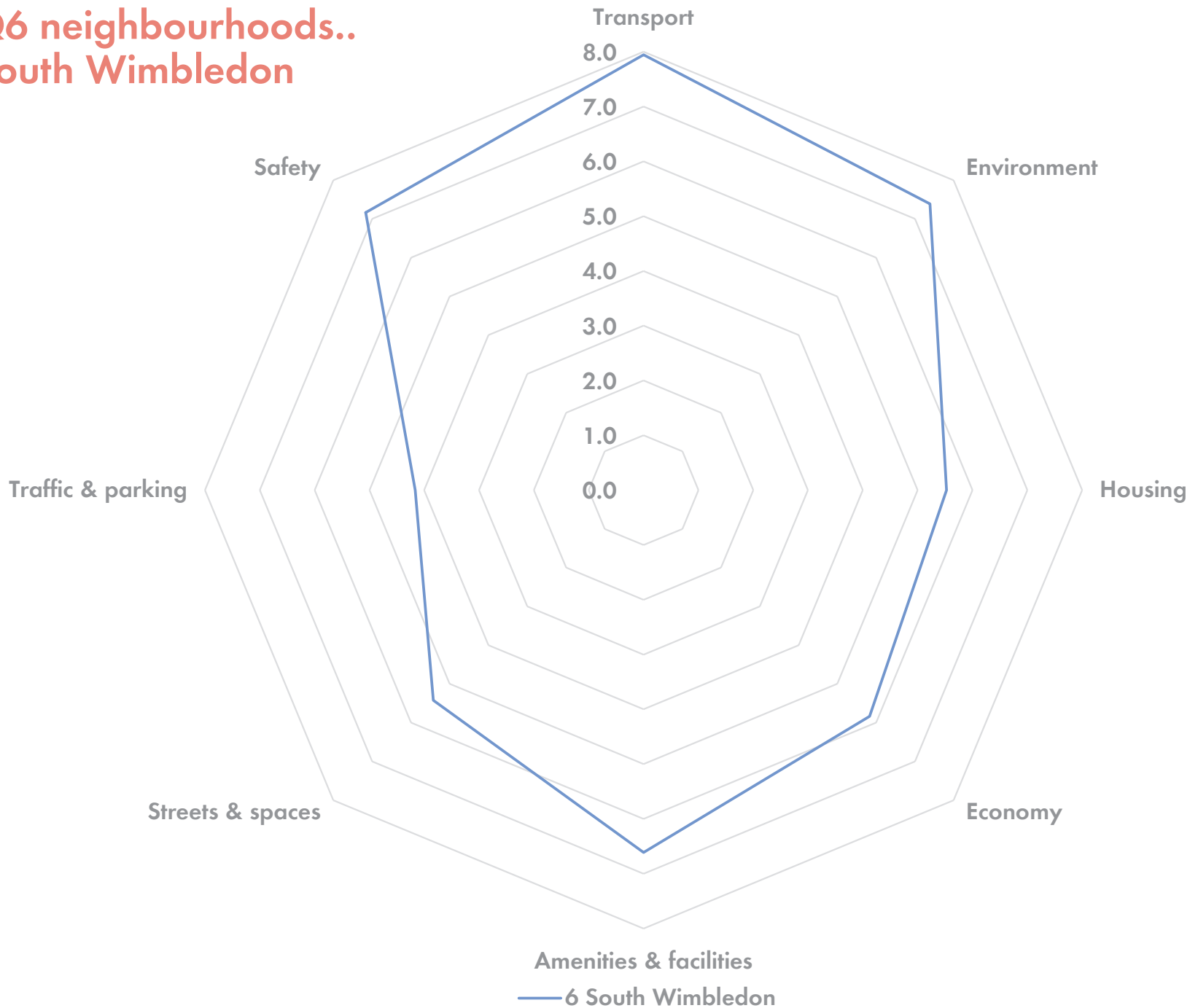
19 responses

"I like that Wimbledon town centre is busy, urban and vibrant. But that surrounding residential areas are peaceful and have historic character"

"Kingston Road needs improving - both in terms of its public realm but there are also sites along it, like car garages that make the road look messy. These could be redeveloped for new homes"

"Kingston Road is a mish-mash of randomly, cheaply, poorly, un-cohesive conversions that bear no links to the Victorian heritage of the parade."

Q6 neighbourhoods.. South Wimbledon



COLLIERS WOOD

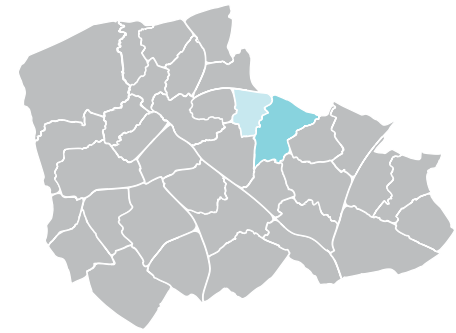
Colliers Wood

What do you think is special about the character of the area where you live?

- Independent restaurants and community assets (Merton Abbey Mills), the Wimbledon Brewery coffee in the wood, pub, Wandle community centre
- Heritage buildings - the abbey and mills
- Victorian terraced houses - attractive streets
- Community spirit, safe and friendliness
- Green spaces - Wandle trail and park

Are there any areas in your neighbourhood that need improving? Why?

- Retail parks as opportunity for change
- Redevelopment of former Virgin Active site, North Road needed urgently to provide affordable housing
- Recreation grounds - improvements and maintenance
- New housing areas must have good access to sustainable transport modes and better bin storage
- Lots of comments about rubbish problems
- Need for a community focal point/hub; more variety of amenities (e.g. a cafe, space for creative business).
- High street should be made more attractive with better street-scaping and greenery - issue with current traffic dominance
- Too much car parking and dominance of vehicles deterring cyclists
- Parks and Wandle trails need better upkeep - cutting back weeds to help widen paths.



25 responses

“ the buildings in Colliers Wood have been improved, but there is more work to do to make it seem like a busy London Borough - currently the high street seems left behind and the shopping centres seem like car parks with shops. There needs to be more dedicated community space.”

“The retail parks are very badly designed, taking up a huge footprint with ground level car parking on prime land, and encourage people to drive the quarter mile between the shopping hubs.”

“The high street and area around the tube station needs to be better. This is the first thing people see when visiting CW but the shops and upkeep let it down. CW has a lot to offer, but visitors would be deterred by all upon arrival.”

HAYDONS ROAD

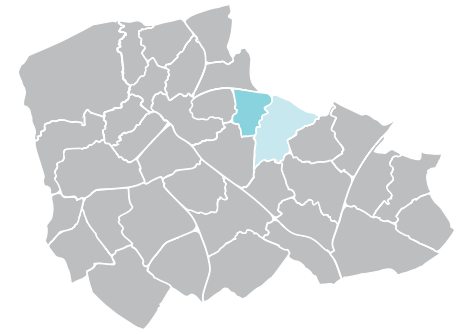
Colliers Wood

What do you think is special about the character of the area where you live?

- Parks, natural green spaces and trees
- Good transport links and access to services
- Residential streets - good mix of housing
- Merton Abbey Mills and river corridor

Are there any areas in your neighbourhood that need improving? Why?

- Haydons Road - busy and unpleasant - particularly to the northern end - where it meets Durnsford Road/Plough Lane - a barrier to moving around
- Wandle paths - wonderful but need better maintenance. And better care of other green spaces
- Traffic - rat-running on Poets
- Shops - could be put to better use - pop-up or temporary uses?
- Prevent motorcycles using cycle only access roads
- Litter issues and better street lighting



12 responses

“Need a better quality of new housing - too many poor-quality flats being built”

“Attempts to make the area more built up because Wimbledon is fashionable are making things significantly more cramped and stressed (and being near industrial areas along the Wandle compounds this - two different reasons to build up the area which are in direct conflict with what works for the other; neither works for residents)”

Q6 neighbourhoods.. Colliers Wood



WIMBLEDON VILLAGE

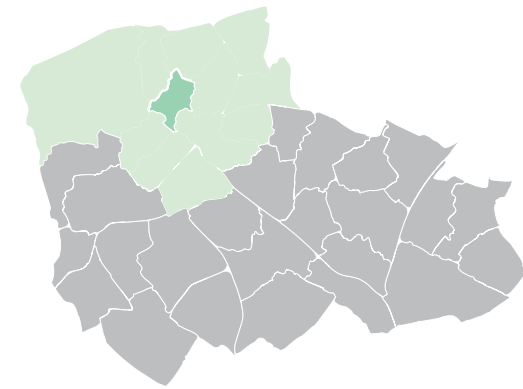
Wimbledon

What do you think is special about the character of the area where you live?

- Village atmosphere
- Proximity to amenities of village shops and restaurants
- Open spaces of the common and parks
- Easy access to the transport system including rail and underground and tram services.

Are there any areas in your neighbourhood that need improving? Why?

- The village requires further investment given it is such a significant draw
- Traffic and pollution
- Curation of shops in village - less charity, less chain and less vacant
- Wimbledon stables - cleaning



3 responses

“Proximity to amenities of village shops and restaurants together with the closeness of the open spaces of the common and parks”

“Proximity to amenities of village shops and restaurants together with the closeness of the open spaces of the common and parks”

WIMBLEDON TOWN

Wimbledon

What do you think is special about the character of the area where you live?

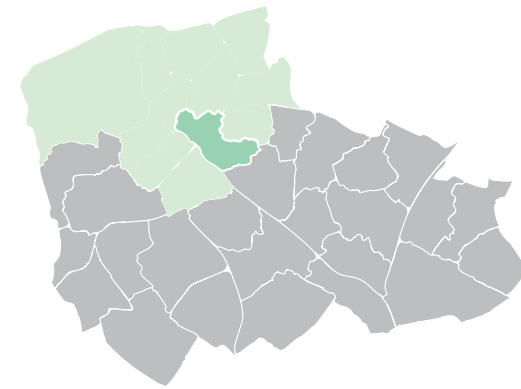
- Strong blend of commerce, culture, retail and residential.
- Green spaces and leafy feel
- South Park Gardens
- Wimbledon tennis as a key draw
- Sense of community - schools, library and churches and within each small residential neighbourhood
- Variety of shops and services
- Entertainment (theatres/cinema)
- Connections
- Low-rise quality and characterful residential streets - consistency is key
- Historic landmarks - on Broadway and also old Pelham school

"A mix of closely related residential houses of all types coupled with almost adjoining in some cases, commercial buildings. A contrast of accessible retail areas, leisure facilities and attractive residential architecture"

"Wimbledon town centre needs to be pedestrianised for character and to encourage footfall and local businesses"

Are there any areas in your neighbourhood that need improving? Why?

- Concern about high-rise development
- Traffic - congestion and rat running on residential side streets
- Cycling - comments to improve the Broadway
- Find a way to give restaurants space for outdoor seating - further pedestrianisation?
- Vacancy on the high street - need for shop front improvements
- New affordable homes with gardens
- Street scape in general - poor paving, street furniture, lighting etc.
- Aim for high quality new development in the high street
- Maintenance regime for new tree planting
- More music and arts
- Kingston Road - opportunities for improvement
- Vacancies in centre court - no reason to go here



46 responses

"The risk is of high rise development taking over - the public have consistently told the Council that they don't want this yet the Council consistently goes against the public's wishes by granting planning consents for such developments"

"Feels very suburban even though I am close to more urban facilities with lots of conveniences."

"The natural habitat that was incorporated in the original lay-out of the roads and its houses, such as the front gardens and grass verges with their trees and shrubs. Also the original architecture of the older buildings, with their pitched roofs, stained glass windows, boundary walls, front garden paths, gates and front door porches. All these features are being lost at an unprecedented rate."

WORPLE ROAD

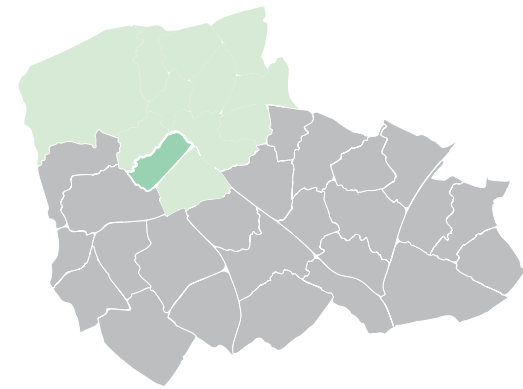
Wimbledon

What do you think is special about the character of the area where you live?

- Quiet suburban feel
- Green spaces and street trees - close to the common
- Local low rise shopping centre which is useful without being a 'destination'.
- Adjacent to the town centre and the village for amenities

Are there any areas in your neighbourhood that need improving? Why?

- Undeveloped plot of land next door to Sainsbury's on George St could be either turned into a larger supermarket or accommodation or offices (NOT high Rise)
- Concern about scale of new development
- Parking - not enough, too expensive and no monitoring
- Pedestrian connection along the railway - litter and graffiti
- Affordable housing
- Traffic and air quality



7 responses

"A quiet suburban feel of the neighbourhood, the presence of wonderful green spaces, the access to a low rise shopping centre which is useful without being a 'destination'."

"Low rise different properties with gardens which retain the character of the past."

WIMBLEDON COMMON

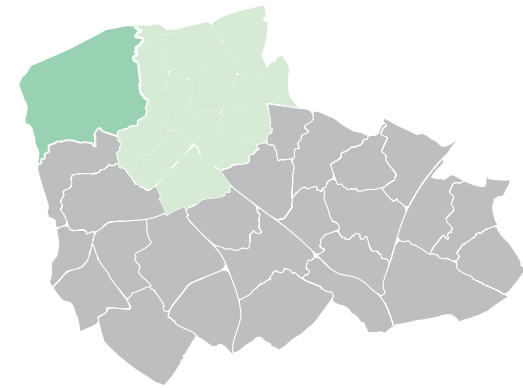
Wimbledon

What do you think is special about the character of the area where you live?

- A village feel close to the city
- Green spaces
- High quality homes
- Close to shops, services, cultural and community facilities
- Not dominated by high-rise

Are there any areas in your neighbourhood that need improving? Why?

- Natural children's play areas on the common on Cannizaro Park
- Increasing number of vacant shops
- Street clutter improvements



2 responses

"I really praise the way Merton has kept its libraries open, and re-thought their uses."

"It has the feel of a village but is a part of London and very close to the city"

WIMBLEDON CHASE

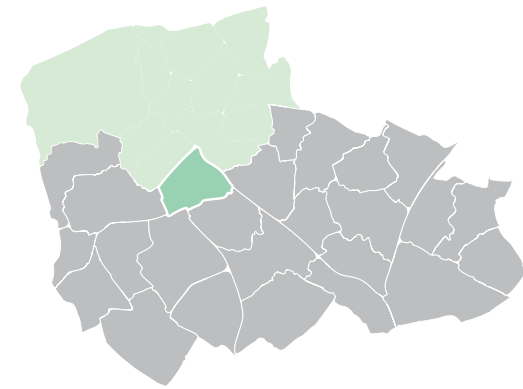
Wimbledon

What do you think is special about the character of the area where you live?

- Full of trees and hilly hedges
- Green spaces and sports facilities
- Family oriented with good schools and community spirit - the John Innes Society, the Merton Park Ward Residents' Association, St Mary's Merton and other local groups.
- History and characterful streets with variety and interesting history - John Innes and St Mary's church
- Well cared for by the residents
- Nelson Hospital valued
- The town centre has a mix of business and residential areas.
- Well connected with good transport links

Are there any areas in your neighbourhood that need improving? Why?

- Traffic and run-running
- Support for better cycle provision
- Support local parades and shop front improvements - more shops, cafés and restaurants
- Retain mix of residential and employment
- Litter, potholes and fly tipping - better cleaning
- Public realm improvements including tree management and wider pavements needed
- Lighting at night at the station and step-free access
- More community spaces and gym equipment in parks for social gatherings and public toilets
- More electric charging points and car clubs



35 responses

"Cycling is ignored and its the way forward"

"Heritage and community cohesion with long term stability."

"Recycling and rubbish bins are very unsightly in front gardens. A scheme to encourage householders to have a small shed or at least a cover, perhaps with a living roof, would help to cover them."

RIDGEWAY

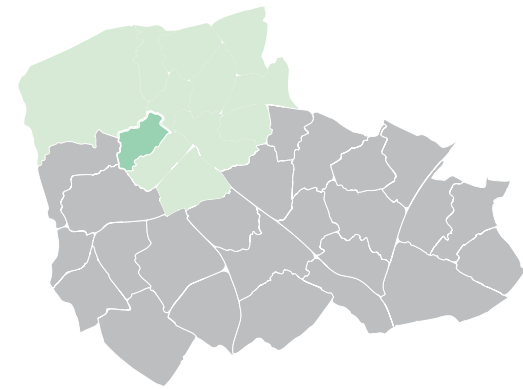
Wimbledon

What do you think is special about the character of the area where you live?

- Green space
- Detached large houses
- Peaceful
- Historic urban environment and Listed Buildings

Are there any areas in your neighbourhood that need improving? Why?

- Too many charity shop
- Traffic, congestion and poor road condition
- Changes to individual dwellings - basement construction



5 responses

“Wimbledon has everything, vibrant area, good shopping, great selection of restaurants etc, great transport links, and open spaces with the Common. Just a great place to live!”

“Stop giving planning permission to noisy construction of ‘vanity’ basements that blight the landscape for a year or more”

QUEENS ROAD

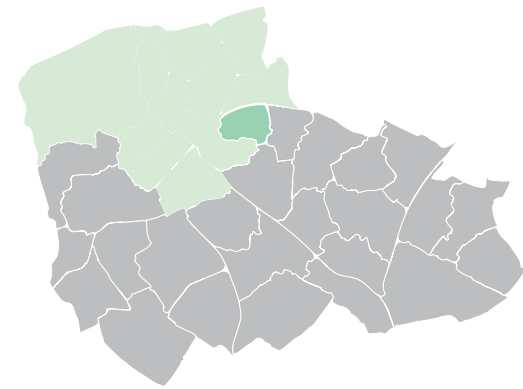
Wimbledon

What do you think is special about the character of the area where you live?

- South Park Gardens and other green spaces
- Terraced housing - quiet residential streets with historic character
- Local schools
- Convenience of neighbourhood

Are there any areas in your neighbourhood that need improving? Why?

- Concern about the negative character developing on the Broadway - poor quality new development - need tree planting and greening
- Haydons Road - negative impact of traffic and poor quality buildings
- More independent shops and too much vacancy
- Traffic and car parking concerns
- Need better cycle lanes
- Concern about tall buildings and development of extra storeys on the existing blocks of flats
- Public realm - street clutter
- More affordable housing
- Retain front gardens



20 responses

“An indoor market like the one Wimbledon used to have and a fishmonger and butcher in the high street would be great.”

“The Broadway is becoming too concrete and losing the charm and character of the area. Too many ugly new blocks that keep going higher”

“New buildings which are too bulky for their surroundings with unattractive facings using cheap materials which require more upkeep than they are likely to get.”

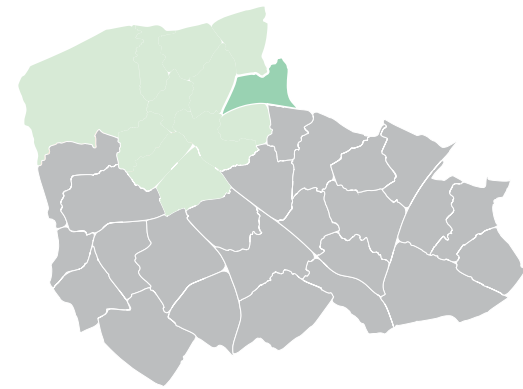
PLOUGH LANE Wimbledon

What do you think is special about the character of the area where you live?

- Quiet residential area
- Multi-cultural neighbourhood
- Close to good transport links and convenient for shopping,
- Near to high quality green spaces.

Are there any areas in your neighbourhood that need improving? Why?

- Concern about adjacencies of industrial sites in close proximity to residential areas, damaging local green spaces
- Need more community resources
- Public art
- Step-free access to station
- Traffic and disjointed cycle lanes
- HGVs particularly from waste disposal



3 responses

“Awkward misuse of industrial sites in close proximity to residential areas, and these damage the integrity of local green spaces”

““Wandle Trail” is just a sleazy short-cut through industrial scrubbery. No attempt to either cultivate or “re-wild” the nearby former sewage works.”

“Pedestrians and cyclists should come first in highways terms. Lack of safe cycling provision between this neighbourhood, Wimbledon, Wandsworth and Morden puts many vulnerable road users off”

PARKSIDE

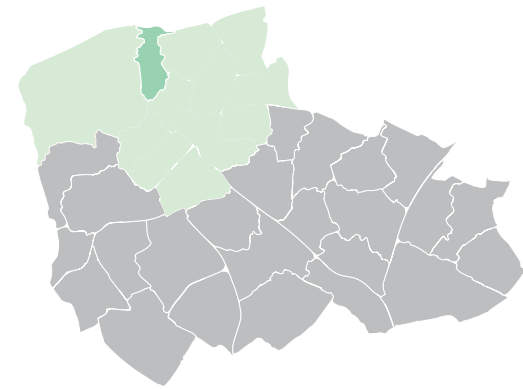
Wimbledon

What do you think is special about the character of the area where you live?

- Green space - Wimbledon Common
- Excellent transport - TfL and SW Rail as well as A3
- Wide range of services/shops

Are there any areas in your neighbourhood that need improving? Why?

- Schemes to reduce through traffic
- A greater variety of shops in village and town centre



1 responses

“Wimbledon Village and Town both need a greater variety of shops and a scheme to reduce through traffic”

LEOPOLD ROAD

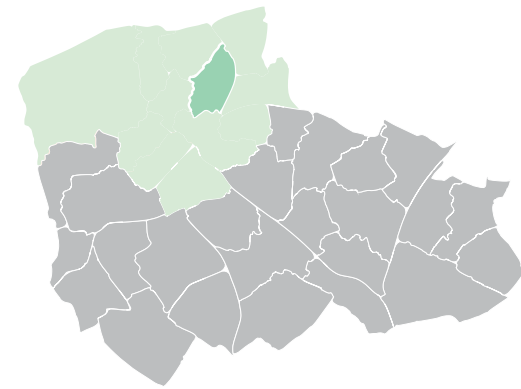
Wimbledon

What do you think is special about the character of the area where you live?

- Green suburban area with trees in the street-scene
- Good transport access
- Classic terraced housing interspersed with blocks of flats
- Leopold Road shopping parade
- Concern the character area is too large and heterogeneous

Are there any areas in your neighbourhood that need improving? Why?

- Reduce congestion by encouraging other modes of transport
- Wimbledon Park - poor maintenance, excessive events and projects. Need for free to use facilities
- Public realm improvements including more benches
- Wimbledon station - a neglected, run-down look
- St Georges carpark needs to be improved to make it encouraging and inviting for use.
- Elm Grove 'business estate' needs a formal plan for the future - concern about residential conversion
- More EV charging points
- Bike storage in streets to encourage ownership



9 responses

"The heritage value of the Grade II Wimbledon Park is being degraded by insensitive planning, poor maintenance, excessive events and projects"*

"Too much parking allowed half on and half off the pavement. Cars do seem to have priority here"

"Wimbledon hill road needs updating to make nicer and greener, its a poor looking public space. Need to return more streets to tree-lined as over the years too many trees have been cut down"

DURNSFORD ROAD

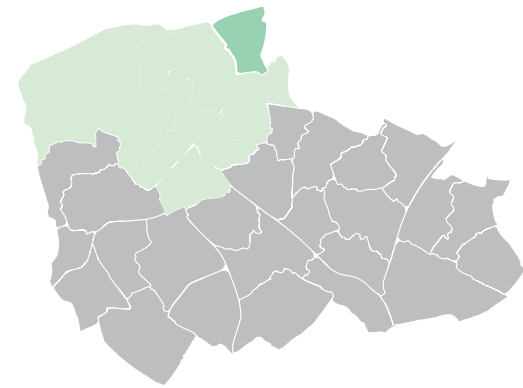
Wimbledon

What do you think is special about the character of the area where you live?

- Good access to green spaces
- Golf course and tennis club
- Consistent housing types in grid pattern with no through traffic
- Good transport links

Are there any areas in your neighbourhood that need improving? Why?

- Concern about golf course redevelopment
- Durnsford Road itself felt to be unpleasant
- Litter and rubbish
- Protect front gardens
- Concern about damage to Wimbledon Park
- Better access in Wimbledon Park e.g. path around the lake
- Better access to sports facilities for all



5 responses

“Wimbledon Common is my favourite feature, it is a great open space right on our doorstep.”

Q6 neighbourhoods.. Wimbledon



- Amenities & facilities**
- 5 West Wimbledon
 - 5 Merton Park
 - 5 Queens Road
 - 5 Wimbledon Common
 - 5 Wimbledon Village
 - 5 Durnsford Road
 - 5 Parkside
 - 5 Ridgeway
 - 5 Wimbledon Major Centre
 - 5 Worple Road
 - 5 Leopold Road
 - 5 Plough Lane
 - 5 Wimbledon Chase
 - 5 Wimbledon Town

GRAND DRIVE

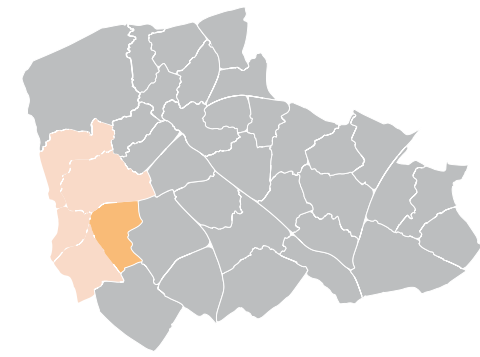
Raynes Park

What do you think is special about the character of the area where you live?

- Green spaces - Sir Joe hood Memorial Playing Field, Bushey Mead and Cannon Hill Common.
- Excellent local schools
- Quiet residential area with varied house types
- Limited shops including the parade on West Barnes Lane, and the corner shop on Seaforth Avenue.
- Established sense of community with residents association - community hubs include West Barnes Library (very active as social centre) Sacred Heart School, Raynes Park high School, the churches (St Saviours, Holy Cross, The Lighthouse in Seaforth Avenue). The Residents' Association Pavilion, the Paddock Allotments and other halls, e.g. the Scout hut in Motspur Park, are well used; also several sports clubs.

Are there any areas in your neighbourhood that need improving? Why?

- Bellway need to open the Sports Field for children's sport and community use; they must not be allowed to build on it.
- Improve railway bridges, particularly in Cannon Hill Lane
- Burlington Road between the West Barnes level crossing and Shannon Corner is in need of some regeneration.
- Improvements and maintenance to pedestrian connections - e.g. the alleyway that leads between Burlington Road and the A3
- Public and community projects: Shannon Corner needs to be tidied up - let's have some artwork from local schools.
- Traffic on Grand Drive turning side roads into 'rat-runs' and concern about increase in development causing more congestion
- Improvements and increase in bus routes



9 responses

"I believe that green spaces are what make Raynes Park, and to a greater extent Merton, special. There are large park spaces that are largely left to be wild apart from trails and certain fields"

"Varied residential - it's quite mixed up, so there tend not to be too many concentrations of one type of housing or people"

COPSE HILL/WEST WIMBLEDON

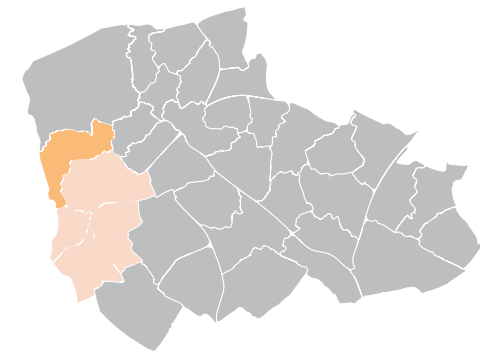
Raynes Park/Wimbledon

What do you think is special about the character of the area where you live?

- Green feel and green spaces
- Quiet
- A village atmosphere

Are there any areas in your neighbourhood that need improving? Why?

- Need better transport links - more regular buses
- Traffic speeds too high
- Access into Coombe Lane from cul de sacs needs improving.
- The bridge over the A3 - negative impact and issues with pedestrian safety



3 responses

“The Copse Hill/West Wimbledon area benefits from large amounts of green space and a village atmosphere”

MOTSPUR PARK

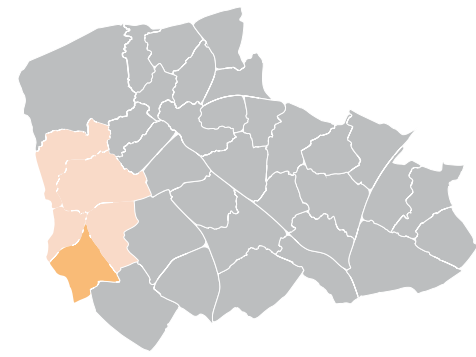
Raynes Park

What do you think is special about the character of the area where you live?

- Green spaces
- Community feel
- Low rise and comparably more affordable housing

Are there any areas in your neighbourhood that need improving? Why?

- Area around the station needs improving
- High street 'lacking' with no community offer



2 responses

"Train stations need a facelift"

"There is no community hall with events"

RAYNES PARK

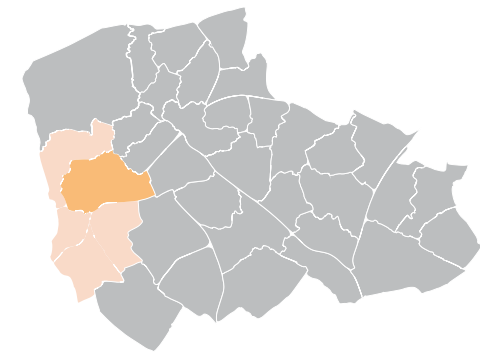
Raynes Park

What do you think is special about the character of the area where you live?

- Quiet residential street with many nearby schools - 'village' feel
- Parks and access to green open space - Holland Park and Cottenham Park
- Excellent transport links
- Characterful historic terraced streets
- Community feel and projects such as Lantern Arts Centre, Cavern Freehouse, MyRaynesPark Festival, Love & Dye

Are there any areas in your neighbourhood that need improving? Why?

- Traffic flow and parking concerns - road systems make it hard to navigate by bike
- Better use of empty land - 'pointless green triangle in the middle of roads' and 'vacant plots not being developed quickly enough'
- More restaurants
- Poor repair of streets and pavements and street clutter
- Poor condition of the station and the surrounding area
- Deteriorating maintenance in the parks - new children's play area
- Vacant shops and buildings needing attention
- Improved pedestrian routes between green spaces and wider pavements near schools
- Concern about loss of local employment sites to housing
- Concern about development on green space and adding additional storeys



20 responses

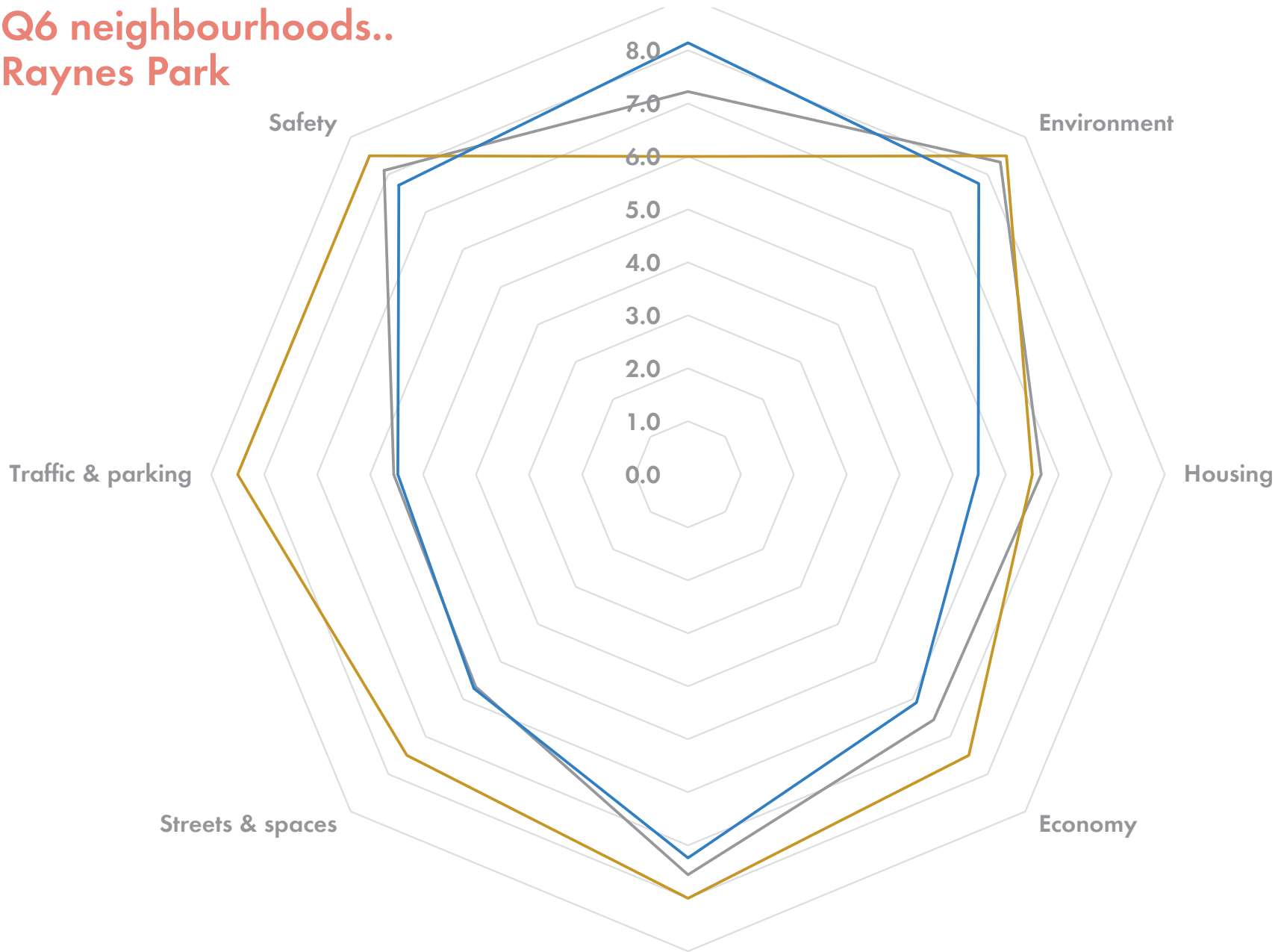
No responses in Shannon Corner

"Raynes Park centre is overly dominated by high traffic roads and suffers from a poor quality public realm as a result; I would be keen to see one side of the one-way system removed, in order to create more public space and improve the quality of the urban realm"

"Section of "dual carriageway" on Kingston Road is completely unnecessary and could be removed and used to create more public space."

"We need to make it better for pedestrians and cyclists and reduce the motor traffic"

Q6 neighbourhoods.. Raynes Park



Amenities & facilities
— 4 Grand Drive — 4 Motspur Park — 4 Raynes Park

ST HELIER

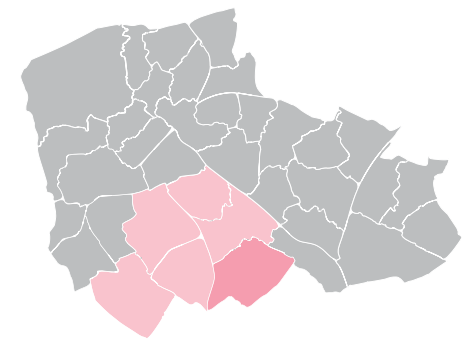
Morden

What do you think is special about the character of the area where you live?

- Green spaces - Morden Hall park, Ravensbury Park, Wardle River
- Local shops and services
- A range of housing types
- Local transport connections

Are there any areas in your neighbourhood that need improving? Why?

- Improve Morden town centre - so much potential
- Community and health uses in Morden Centre
- Street improvements - improve road side verges
- Walking and cycling infrastructure improved
- Traffic and car parking on pavements
- Litter and fly-tippng



10 responses

"Great on green spaces. Quite alright on transport. Not so great on shops."

"Morden high street is an abomination, it needs a lot of updating and renovating. It is amazingly located right by Morden Hall Park and the Tube station, yet it looks so run down! It has so much potential, but all the attention goes to Wimbledon and SW postcode areas."

MORDEN PARK

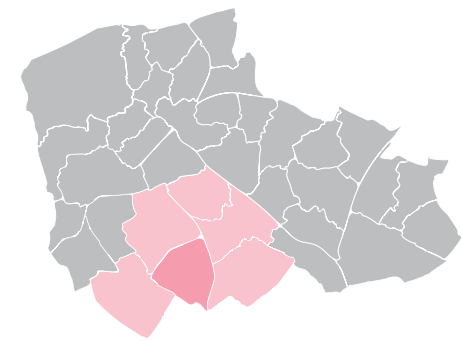
Morden

What do you think is special about the character of the area where you live?

- Green spaces
- Green feel - grass verges, trees, parks and green spaces
- Good transport links

Are there any areas in your neighbourhood that need improving? Why?

- Concern about the decline of the high street and vacancies
- Reduce street clutter
- Litter and street cleaning
- Maintenance of green space and more planting
- Traffic
- More affordable housing



8 responses

“The amount of parkland and green space in Morden is something special”

“Local high street decline due to loss of much needed shops.”

MORDEN

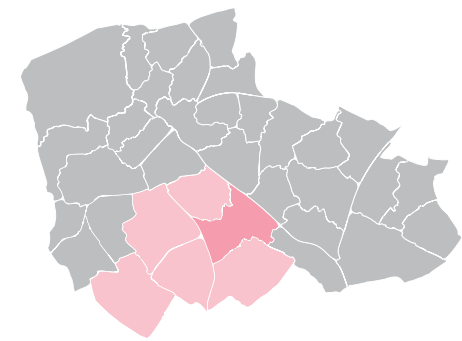
Morden

What do you think is special about the character of the area where you live?

- Park and green feel - Morden Hall Park
- Tube station
- Independent retail
- Safe

Are there any areas in your neighbourhood that need improving? Why?

- Ravens Park needs investment
- Better local facilities and shops and restaurants - less vacancy
- Sport and leisure facilities
- Proposals that move cars away from town centre - pedestrian friendly spaces
- Deer Park Road - lots of construction
- Hamseys Bed Centre - potential site



9 responses

“Morden Hall Park and Morden tube station are major factors. Few good cafés and restaurants have also popped up in past year. Quality public art and community projects are practically non-existent.”

“Town centre dominated by motor traffic”

“On some roads cars are parked on a sidewalk - it doesn't look nice and can make it hard to walk”

MERTON PARK

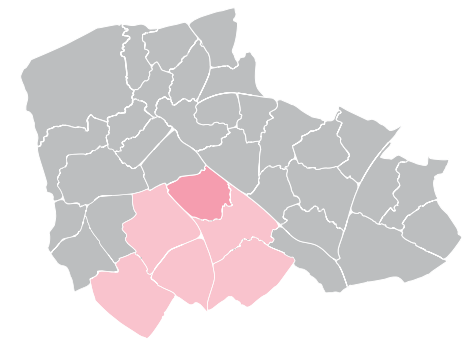
Morden

What do you think is special about the character of the area where you live?

- Green spaces - John Innes
- Tree lined streets and greening - holly hedges
- Friendly / community / village feel
- Schools and sports ground
- Historic buildings - church, Victorian and Edwardian homes
- Variety in architecture and types of homes - houses and flats
- Restaurants and evening entertainment
- Cafés with outside seating in Morden
- Good transport links
- Diverse community

Are there any areas in your neighbourhood that need improving? Why?

- Rat-running
- Better community and leisure facilities in Morden
- Greening in the town centre
- Better connection between green spaces
- Return the town centre to 2-way traffic and create a pedestrian friendly area
- Sites: car park behind the tube, Kenley Road, Sandbourne Avenue, the White Hart pub - a new community centre
- Kendor Gardens needs investment
- Street cleaning and rubbish
- Poor retail to resi conversions
- Public realm improvements - cracked pavements
- Concern about height and density of new homes - should be matched with infrastructure provision



32 responses

"Morden town centre buildings need smartening up and the car parking behind the tube. Morden needs help to become more than just a transport hub"

"Merton Park is nice and doesn't need much. If you are talking Morden then it needs a lot, around crown house is terrible (civic centre ugly), crown lane shopping parade looks bad & dated. Morden station and shops feel like the 1980s"

"The McCarthy and Stone development on the old hospital car park shows what is possible. Change doesn't have to be cheap and nasty."

LOWER MORDEN

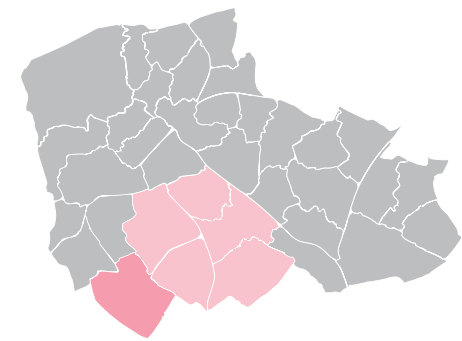
Morden

What do you think is special about the character of the area where you live?

- Green spaces
- Quiet residential area

Are there any areas in your neighbourhood that need improving? Why?

- Public realm - de-clutter and damaged pavements
- Improve cycling provision
- Litter
- Vacant shops
- Parking problems
- Use raised table junctions not road closures to prevent rat-running



7 responses

“Generally quiet, good quality residential area”

“No matter how good the public transport, cars will always be needed in this type of location. This must be acknowledged in planning. Loss of front gardens for parking has reached a tipping point where there may soon be no place to park on the street. Additional yellow lines and EV parking further reduces this and compels people to apply for crossovers. This creates a poor walking environment where pedestrians walk in the street rather than the ‘rollercoaster’ footway.”

CANNON HILL

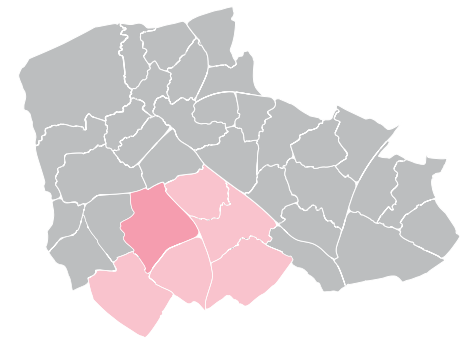
Morden

What do you think is special about the character of the area where you live?

- Green spaces and woodland
- Multicultural area
- Low rise quiet suburban character
- Good bus links and relatively good wider connectivity

Are there any areas in your neighbourhood that need improving? Why?

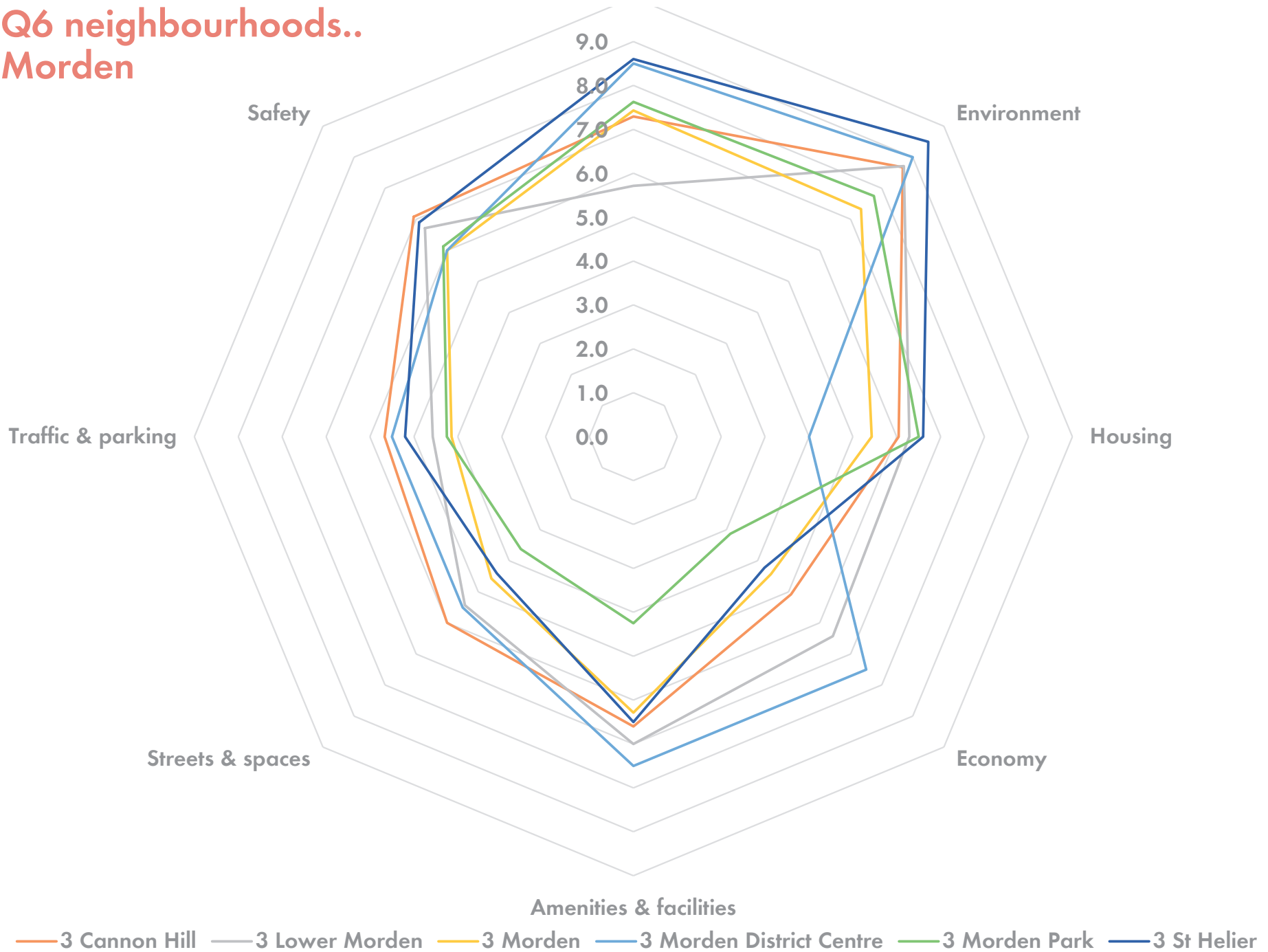
- Morden Town centre regeneration
- More collaboration like that with The Sound Lounge, for vacant properties
- Prevent HMOs
- Traffic management
- Car parking problems
- Better children's play equipment - Joseph Hood Recreation Ground
- More street trees and biodiversity planting
- Concern about high rise development
- Convert shops to housing
- Affordable housing
- Cycle safety - along Martin Way



25 responses

“Some time ago the Council consulted on the redevelopment of Morden town centre. What happened? The pedestrian area either side of the tube station, where people wait for buses, is particularly poor. The town centre would benefit from regeneration.”

Q6 neighbourhoods.. Morden



CRICKET GREEN

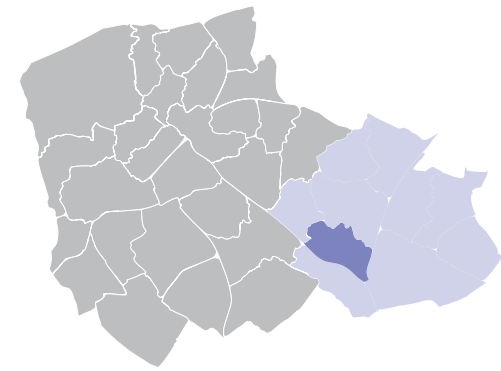
Mitcham

What do you think is special about the character of the area where you live?

- History - cricket green buildings
- Green spaces / commons - the field has a country feel
- The Wilson hospital
- Interesting mix of uses
- People and community feel
- Good transport

Are there any areas in your neighbourhood that need improving? Why?

- Fly tipping
- Any way to improve transport accessibility?
- Conservation areas need better maintenance and enforcement for inappropriate development
- HGVs should not be allowed to park in residential areas
- Pavement parking is a problem
- Better playgrounds
- Regeneration of empty buildings
- Sites: The London Road between the Cricket Green and the Tramlink has many areas awaiting redevelopment, The Burn Bullock
- Pubs overlooking the green: vacant - find new use for community or affordable housing
- High street feels neglected - Better shops and restaurants - reduce vacancy
- More affordable housing



18 responses

"We are a mixed area and we all get along"

"Green spaces such as Cranmer Green, London Road Playing Field and Mitcham Common could do with some nice little food outlets: local bakery, a pop-up coffee van, a nice cafe."

"Mitcham town centre desperately needs TLC. Its run down, dirty, unattractive shops, no draw to it at all. It feels like it has been neglected for a long time compared to neighbouring areas like Wimbledon, tooting and Streatham"

EASTFIELDS

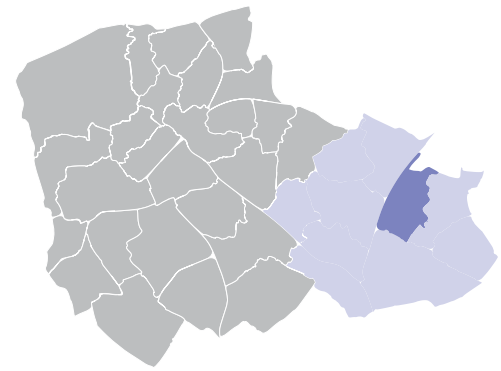
Mitcham

What do you think is special about the character of the area where you live?

- Green open spaces
- Sense of community
- A mix of urban and more rural

Are there any areas in your neighbourhood that need improving? Why?

- Affordable housing
- Street cleaning and flytipping
- HMO issue
- More diversity of shopping in town centre
- Traffic congestion and parking concerns



7 responses

"Mitcham is unfortunately known as the 'poor relation' to Wimbledon, and this appears true on so many fronts."

"Its urban with a nice mix of concrete and tress and grass areas. There is a good selection of people most polite and welcoming"

FIGGES MARSH

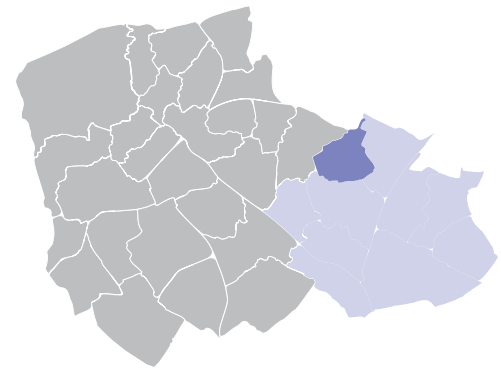
Mitcham

What do you think is special about the character of the area where you live?

- Well located - zone 3
- Green spaces
- Diverse community
- Strong connection to Wandsworth/ Tooting for shopping
- Convenient shops

Are there any areas in your neighbourhood that need improving? Why?

- Regeneration of Mitcham town centre
- Traffic congestion impacts on buses
- More frequent rail services
- Cheap new development that does not fit in with surroundings
- Services and leisure to compete with Wimbledon
- More trees on residential streets
- Antisocial behaviour
- Investment in cycle infrastructure



11 responses

“New housing being built is ugly and overpriced and doesn’t take into consideration increased impact on public transport or the architectural style of the neighbourhood (see the new Graveney Mews development which is an ugly collection of yellow bricks right in the middle of 3 Edwardian terraced streets). Building should be built to better fit in their surroundings. ”

“At the back of my house is the so called Nature Reserve it is a mess and not well looked after”

“More investment in parks would also be great - Figge’s Marsh used to have beautiful flower beds.”

MITCHAM COMMON

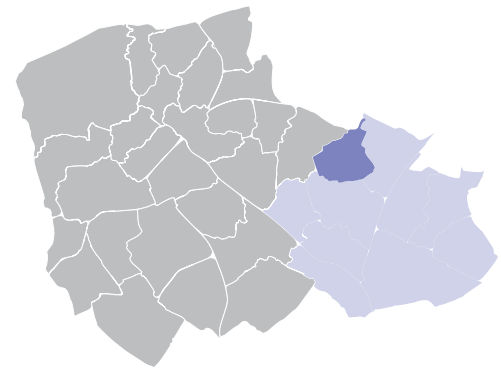
Mitcham

What do you think is special about the character of the area where you live?

- The common
- Green space with eco possibilities lined by early 20thC housing

Are there any areas in your neighbourhood that need improving? Why?

- Fly tipping
- Better transport connections
- Better local shopping
- Eco friendly development on the edge of the common



2 responses

STREATHAM ROAD

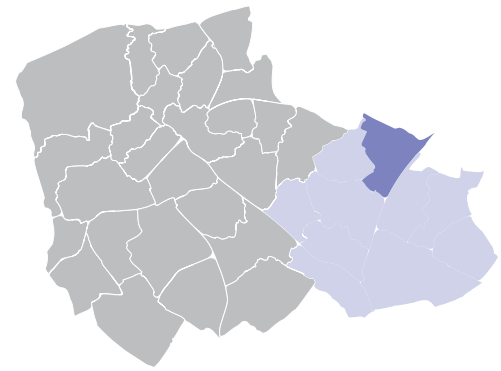
Mitcham

What do you think is special about the character of the area where you live?

- Green spaces - Figges Marsh
- Tooting over ground and easy access to Tooting Broadway
- Tooting is natural centre for the area - not Mitcham town centre.
- Some attractive Edwardian buildings
- Family sized homes
-

Are there any areas in your neighbourhood that need improving? Why?

- Streetscape on London Road from Amen Corner to Figges Marsh is poor
- The traffic calming design by Figges Marsh/Bruce Road isn't in keeping with the quality of the neighbourhood
- More tree planting
- Fly tipping, street lighting and road repair. Cost of car parking
- Figges Marsh - needs investment including better boundaries
- HMOs
- No closure of streets without consultation
- Disused spaces which could be developed eg along Streatham Rd
- Improved amenities eg range of shops/cafes in Mitcham town centre
- Better bus links to Tooting Broadway and other major transport hubs eg Streatham common station



13 responses

"The natural neighbourhood centre for shopping and leisure is Tooting. There is no natural connection to Mitcham town centre."

"London Road is shabby and dirty."

CHURCH ROAD

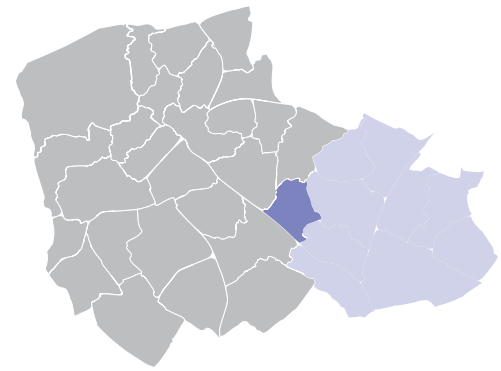
Mitcham

What do you think is special about the character of the area where you live?

- Open spaces close by
- Local history and heritage
- Multi-cultural community.
- Community Centre in the heart of the Phipps Bridge Estate.
- Most high-rise blocks have been removed.
- Some good schools.
- Local children's play-park is one of the best in Merton.
- Good Bus and Tram links.
- Deen City Farm is excellent.
- Some local shops. Lots of larger shops nearby

Are there any areas in your neighbourhood that need improving? Why?

- Morden has vacant shops which could be re-purposed perhaps?
- Mitcham has pound shops and charity shops but supermarkets seem not to survive there.
- Repair work to streets is slow to happen.
- Our estate has a litter problem (Phipps).
- Car parks look increasingly rough and seem not to be maintained well.
- More use of open spaces and more project work with young people are very much needed.



3 responses

"I value the Community Centre in the heart of the Phipps Bridge Estate. The Local children's play-park is one of the best in Merton."

POLLARDS HILL

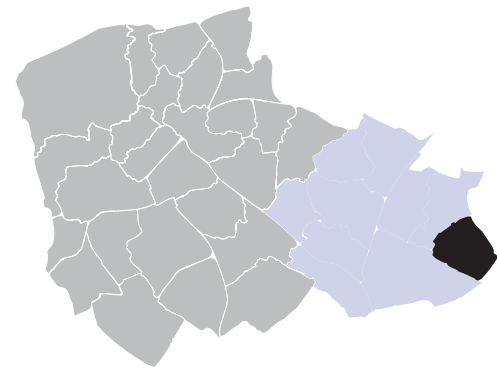
Mitcham

What do you think is special about the character of the area where you live?

- Working class community
- The library and community centre

Are there any areas in your neighbourhood that need improving? Why?

- Regeneration of the area
- Rubbish and fly tipping
- Safety on the common



2 responses

“Mitcham is run down generally, the buildings are looking neglected. The residents no longer take pride in the area and rubbish is dumped on every street corner and against bins and trees. All of the above scenarios require attention.”

MITCHAM

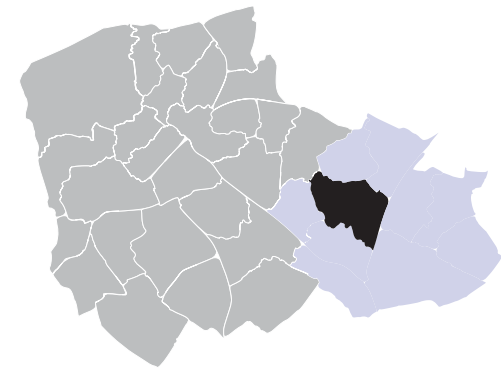
Mitcham

What do you think is special about the character of the area where you live?

- Shops and services
- Green spaces
- Well connected to central London
- Historic features like cricket green area
- Diverse and tolerant community
- Dean city farm close by

Are there any areas in your neighbourhood that need improving? Why?

- Mitcham high street feels uncared for
- Rubbish and street cleaning
- Tree maintenance and planting
- Need better shops, cultural activities, leisure, sports facilities
- More police presence - antisocial behaviour
- Neglected private homes
- More space for walking and cycling - better cycle connections
- Support for a better market in Mitcham
- Car parks suggested as development sites for new businesses and housing



30 responses

“Green spaces everywhere yet very well connected to public transport to get to central London”

“The madness of allowing buses through the centre of Mitcham again cutting through the heart of what could have been usable social & pedestrian space”

“We have a mural on the wall of the perimeter road, painted by some of the children that live on the estate 17 years ago. Most of them still live here or are still connected to the area. To this day the wall has not been graffitied on”.

“Greater variety of independent shops and cultural activities to support art, music etc.”

ROWAN ROAD

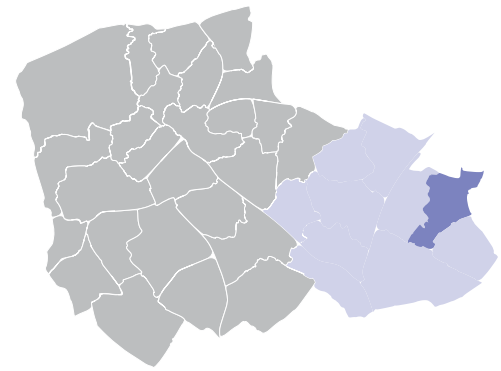
Mitcham

What do you think is special about the character of the area where you live?

- Green spaces - Cricket Green, The Canons and Mitcham Common
- Village feel
- Community / belonging
- Good places to play for children
- Shops and services

Are there any areas in your neighbourhood that need improving? Why?

- Need a community centre to bring people together
- Better street cleaning and flytipping issues
- Congestion
- Better care of public spaces - planting, new equipment



6 responses

“Green spaces - these could be improved by putting in things like exercise equipment and making them more accessible and improving the play areas”

WANDLE/MITCHAM BRIDGE

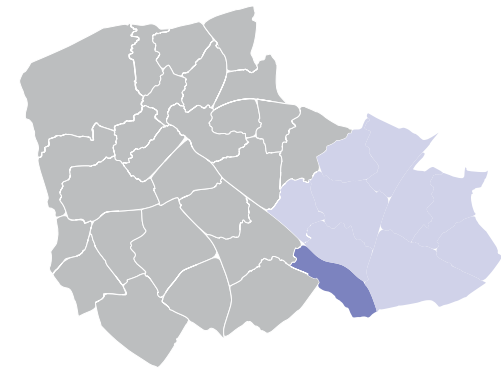
Mitcham

What do you think is special about the character of the area where you live?

- Green spaces and rivers
- Family homes

Are there any areas in your neighbourhood that need improving? Why?

- Traffic and congestion
- More diverse shops and leisure uses and activities for young people
- Public realm - reduce street clutter, repair pavements
- Vacant shops eg tyre shop on London Rd opposite to Mitcham Tram stop.
- Neglected private homes



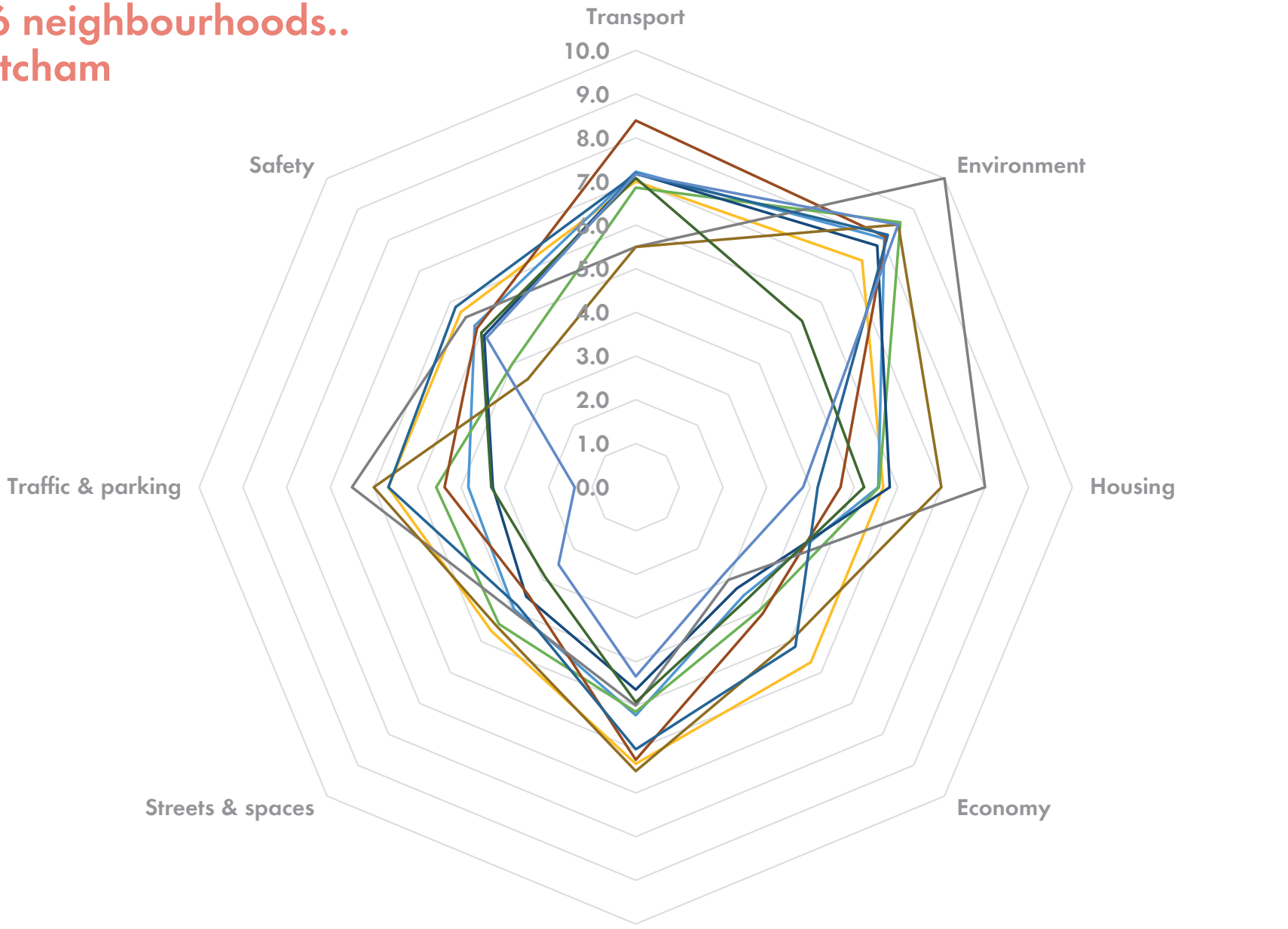
6 responses

“Would love to see more independent shops, cafés and restaurants. Also an arts space with cinema, work out classes, workshops etc”

“Closure of Bishopford Road bridge has temporary improvement to local traffic levels but long term access issues”

“Unfortunately the biggest street problem of the Mitcham neighbourhood is constant litter and fly-tipping. This really makes it hard to like the neighbourhood. And includes parks.”

Q6 neighbourhoods.. Mitcham



Amenities & facilities

- 2 Church Road
- 2 Cricket Green
- 2 Eastfields
- 2 Figgs Marsh
- 2 Mitcham
- 2 Mitcham Common
- 2 Pollards Hill
- 2 Rowan Road
- 2 Streatham Road
- 2 Mitcham Bridge



Workshop

MERTON CHARACTER STUDY

Stakeholder workshop note – Tuesday 17 November 2020

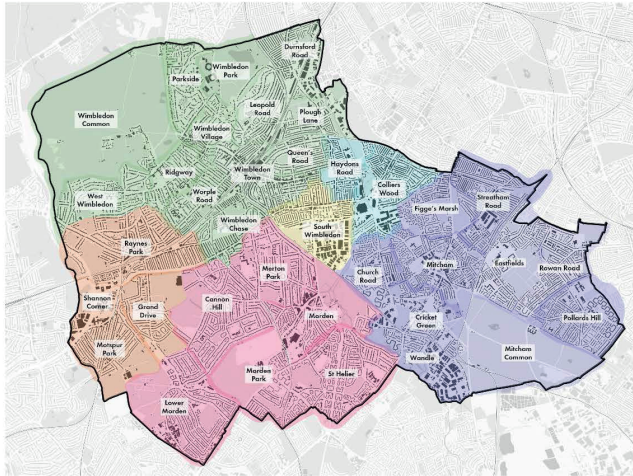
Around 30 people attended the Character Study Workshop – both residents and representatives from local groups and organisations. Attendees were organised into groups to discuss the parts of the borough that they were most interested in.

The agenda for the evening was as follows:

- 18:00 Introductory presentation
- 18:20 Discussion 1 - the neighbourhood boundaries
- 18:30 Presentation - existing character and opportunities for each borough area
- 19:00 Discussion 2 - area ideas and opportunities
- 19:30 Next steps and close

Notes and feedback from discussion 1:

Attendees were asked to comment on the draft neighbourhood areas which had been identified. These have been evolved and reviewed as a result of 400+ comments received through a recent online survey.



The following comments were received:

South Wimbledon area: It was felt by some that South Wimbledon should either be separate or joined with Wimbledon, not discussed alongside Colliers Wood.

Raynes Park area: Some in the group thought that the Raynes Park boundary is along the railway line and the north of the railway should be considered 'West Wimbledon'. It felt that the boundary of West Wimbledon should include the conservation area.

Mitcham area: Comments from individuals included:

- It was suggested that 'Wandle' is an unsuitable name for the southern character area as the Wandle spans across the borough and beyond. Mitcham Bridge was suggested.

- It was suggested that Mitcham Town Centre should be recognised as Mitcham Village.
- Boundaries that interface with Mitcham TC (or Mitcham Village) should be fuzzy and fluid.
- Description of Mitcham Town Centre is crucial to guide future projects to be more suitable for its context.
- Canons area should be integrated with the Cricket Green - currently there is a boundary running through it.
- More clarity on the plan needed between wandle and cricket green.
- Eastfields / Rowan Rd - split through the cemetery – is this correct?

Wimbledon area: Comments from individuals included:

- **Wimbledon Park Boundary:** Northern boundary Merton Park around J1 conservation area similar to Dundonald conservation area in Wimbledon and Sheridan Road / Dorset Road similar in character to John Innes. Poplar Road and down Erridge Road - John Innes bought the whole place for the garden suburb. Includes the Quartermain cottages on London Road and also Martin Way down the other end of Mostyn Road –all part of John Innes estate. Need to take northern boundary right up to Dundonald Road north, Victorian terraces, because it was the Merton Park estate.
- **Belvedere area:** crosses over into the Lancasters and down to Ridgeway, Belvedere Drive, Mary's Road, all the Lancasters, Haygarth Road.
- **Wimbledon village:** boundary needs to carry on to Maryat road / War Memorial includes shops, Rose and Crown etc
- **Parkside:** starts after Maryat Road, includes shops, Rose and Crown etc
- **West Wimbledon:** Wimbledon finishes at the end of Ridgeway, near the roundabout where SW19 finishes

Morden area: Comments from individuals included:

- **Wimbledon Park Boundary:** the boundary of this area should extend north and include Kingston Road. It is important that it includes the whole of the area developed by John Innes, not just the core that is the Conservation Area
- **Wimbledon Park Boundary:** comment that the southern part of this area is sensitive to the growth of Morden town centre and therefore a need to be careful about the boundary
- General comment that drawing defined lines around places is a very difficult thing and that an absolute boundary is not possible, and therefore an appreciation of "fuzzy" boundaries.

Notes and feedback from discussion 2:

During the second discussion, attendees were asked to consider the following questions within their discussion groups which related to a section of the borough;

- What are the areas key assets? How would you describe its character?
- What are the key issues for the area?
- What are the key opportunities for the areas continued evolution?

Notes of the key discussions have been summarised below for each area in turn:

RAYNES PARK

Key assets identified:

- Good schools in the area are a draw for people.
- Many open and public spaces. Existing open character should be protected.
- Access routes between parades in Motspur Park and Raynes Park is key to the area's character.

Key issues identified:

- Long overdue improvements to railway stations. Step-free access to Motspur Park and West Barnes station.
- If Motspur Park station closes due to Crossrail 2, what will happen to the parade?
- Retain industrial uses in Shannon corner. Nothing wrong with having an industrial character.
- Pedestrian access on Grand Drive inhibits access. Widen pavement.
- Crossings around Shannon corner don't encourage pedestrian movement. Passages underneath the A3 should be improved to make more appealing/safe.
- Preserve the scale of the place.

Key opportunities identified:

- Improve pedestrian routes between Motspur Park and Raynes Park parades
- GP provision in new developments to save residents trips into Kingston for minor issues.
- More office spaces to south of railway station to create to overcome severance.
- Removing or rationalising the one-way system to Raynes Park station would help pedestrian movement.
- Consolidate access through the railway station arches to improve pedestrian access and movement.

MITCHAM

Key Assets

- Mitcham is very green, with large and small spaces combining to create discrete character. *'Wimbledon's character is described as green and open, and Mitcham isn't, even though we are.'*
- Local Parades are key assets also. They go hand in hand with the network of green spaces.
- One key issue is permeability – maybe the network of green is a solution to this.
- *'Would be interesting to know car ownership in Mitcham.'*
- *'we talk about bad transport connections and low density being negatives – but maybe they are the character. Beer cycling and pedestrian routes would improve the situation.'*
- *'The businesses around Mitcham town centre, how can they be helped to improve the area?'*

Key issues

- maintaining uniqueness
- permeability
- Transport links are poor
- Mitcham businesses need help
- Walkability and Wayfinding to make Mitcham more connected and support active travel
- Green links for quiet links to connect places
- Local parades are key to character of 'micro' neighbourhoods
- *'the various benches around Mitcham town centre and others areas not utilized, sadly seem to be - used for too much drinking which causes problems for others'*

Issue/Opportunity:

- Community influence and management of spaces
- Access to community spaces (buildings)
- Sense of responsibility and engagement
- London Road and busy corridors
- Lower Green Gyratary
 - make more permeable with crossings, green central reservations

- Church Rd HGVs
- The green spaces are a plus, to walk around/exercise. Perhaps possible liaising with local police/groups to help quieter or hot spot areas?
- Phipps Bridge - better connected to Morden than Mitcham
- Benedict Wharf - opportunity to connect Cricket Green
- Mitcham Market - can add to character.
- London Road Parades - not pleasant aesthetically, but socially, serve communities
- Local Policing of spaces and places is needed
- Economy: Willow Lane industry and small scale workshops – add some vibrancy and mix
- Threat/Danger – losing character to 'standard' new builds
- IBM – need a stronger vision, more control
- Natural Env - trees, woodland, ponds no just in the common (assets)
- Assets – dark spaces. It's nice that not everywhere is brightly lit by street lamps

COLLIERS WOOD AND SOUTH WIMBLEDON

Key assets identified:

- Culture
- Strong sense of community
- Lots of local independents and entrepreneurial people
- Trails that communicate and celebrate heritage

Issues and opportunities:

- Focus on the people who live there first, before planning for new residents. The character study should be for the people who live there – provide for the people there first, support the wonderful businesses there, and then focus on new homes / residents.
- As one of the main arteries out / into London, businesses are dependent on passing trade. The cycle lanes that were put in recently have prevented people from stopping by to use the local shops. Has not been thought about holistically.
- Only have one community centre which is not thriving, and public transport is not good (tube has not increased capacity). Concern that the social infrastructure to support new development in Colliers Wood is not there e.g. schools, community spaces, public transport.
- Focus on investing in the existing fabric, to value the small heritage things which add up to more than the sum of their parts. This only requires simple changes e.g. repainting facades, cleaning the area up, pulling up some of the concrete and replanting. Need proper planting, not token planting. Explore opportunities for reusing buildings for community focused uses where different groups mix e.g. live / work / place spaces where older people and children interact.
- Focus on sustainability by adopting the 15-minute neighbourhood concept and providing car rental schemes in the area (currently they are all in Wimbledon)
- Colliers Wood is the second largest retail centre despite it not being a town centre, but it is the only area without a masterplan
- Should we be making decisions about the future when we don't know what that will look like? (because of Covid)
- Strong feeling that Council are spending a lot of money not in a way residents want it to be spent e.g. social distancing measures that are causing challenges for local businesses trading.

WIMBLEDON

Key assets:

- World famous destination due to tennis, why people know it and come and visit it

- Town centre is an asset, thriving compared to outer London town centres, need to be conscious as to how it evolves
- Wimbledon Common
- Lots of pressure on smaller green spaces (e.g. John Innes Park). People in new homes / flats will want more
- Availability of greenspace in Wimbledon town centre puts lots of pressure on South Park Gardens green space
- Wimbledon is safe because of the way it is laid out

Issues/negative character

- Depends on the time of day, night time economy
- Premier Inn development
- Wimbledon town centre to South Wimbledon is poor
- Fridge on the bridge!
- Done unbelievably well = Wellington House. Need more of these. Beautiful finish, quality development
- In Wimbledon Village there was a beautiful building at LK Bennett, now horrible
- Centre Court 25 storeys is terrible
- Transport around Wimbledon is really bad because people can't get across the railway line
- Leopold Road is a wonderful little shopping area, quite a nice mix of shops, mini village, hardware, etc But it does get an awful lot of traffic coming down the hill onto Gap Road. Like the Leopold Road stone sign
- Wimbledon Park - a bit tired looking, good mix of shops, suffers from a lot of traffic. Wimbledon Village, Leopold Road, Wimbledon Park - all very linear
- If I wanted to walk from the Village to Wimbledon Park it is at least 20 mins. Could do with a facelift.
- Need more schools and health facilities if you are going to increase the population. Need the infrastructure to go with it.
- Berkley Homes down Copse Hill - only one bus route. No real shops, need to go down to Raynes Park, or Coombe Lane

Opportunities:

- All about Wimbledon town centre, the local centres, making the connections between them.
- Residential areas can look after themselves.
- How are we going to respond to all the bigger changes - changes in retail habits, how and where people work, how these town centres are going to survive this?
- Opportunities around the fringes of town centres.
- Broadway / South Park Gardens transitional area between town and residential

MORDEN

Key assets identified:

- Conservation areas and their buildings contribute to the area's character, but other aspects are important too - the nature of streets and areas outside conservation areas
- Green spaces are key assets - particularly Morden Hall Park and Morden Park, both with important history
- Morden town centre should be considered almost as important as Wimbledon town centre in the borough

Issues:

- Lack of knowledge about Morden Park - hidden, but also perhaps overlooked as there are many other green spaces closer to homes.
- Transport - need to slow down traffic generally and also reduce the amount of traffic. Kingston Road could be great if the traffic was reduced.
- Morden town centre - need to treat growth to the north carefully and sensitively given change in character.

Opportunities:

- A24 along Morden Hall Park could be a location for development - opportunity to enhance through new development/intensification.
- Area around Morden South station and the Baitul Futuh Mosque could be an opportunity. Need to engage with the Mosque as part of any area changes. Opportunities around it and the station to really lift this part of the sub area.
- Tram is now really well used - need to look at tram crossings and potential to grow activities around stops.
- Regeneration around the River Wandle in the Mitcham sub area has been really positive and a big change. This highlights what can be achieved along river corridor and more generally - need to see more of this to lift up the Morden area.
- Transport - lots of opportunities to really enhance streets to support walking and cycling. Consider reducing vehicle speeds to support this too.
- Affordability of parts of the area could be part of the solution in transport - drawing people out to the area without cars.

OTHER GENERAL COMMENTS

- We're asked what makes Merton.....Merton? In terms of "character" there's little that's distinctively Merton - it is after all just a 50 year old political construct. It is the neighbourhoods within it that have distinct character
- Interesting/disturbing to note that the "emerging" character for the different parts of the borough is increasingly similar to each other - variety across the Borough being diluted by most recent changes

NEXT STEPS

The team will be reviewing the information from the workshop and using it, alongside analysis and information received through the public survey, to develop character recommendations and design guidance for each of the borough areas. This will feed into the emerging Local Plan. The Draft Character Study is expected to be published in early 2021. It will be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which will have a formal 6-week consultation period.

The views and comments within this note are those of the attendees and are not the views of Merton Council or Allies and Morrison.