
Dear Future Merton,

Please find the Conservative group's response to the Small Sites Tool Kit SPD consultation below. Please can you confirm receipt?

Merton Conservatives welcome additional guidance for small site development in Merton. However, we are concerned that continued development on small sites could ultimately lead to overdevelopment which is a pressing concern for local residents. We oppose the development of concreted vehicle crossovers which has led to a loss of green space and has created drainage issues, as well as damage to the natural environment. However, we support the introduction of green crossovers, especially in light of the repeated parking taxes placed upon residents. Green crossovers can contain planting and are water permeable, so they do not damage the environment like the concrete ones. We also support the inclusion of electric vehicles charging points in green crossovers as this will help to reduce overall emissions.

We are concerned by the SPD referring to development on the 'forgotten ends of gardens'. Development on existing green space should not be encouraged and the privacy and access concerns of existing residents must be paramount when any development of this sort is considered. This 'garden grabbing' form of development has led to the overdevelopment of many sites in the borough and not sustainable, it also has had a negative impact on local communities and local wildlife. Future development in Merton should be based on what is sustainable and sensible and not focused on the need to please developers.

Best wishes,

Policy and Research Officer to the Conservative Group
Democracy Services
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Merton Council

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