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## FUTURE OF MERTON

We have read your information on the London Borough of Merton where it points out its coherent character, grassy verges, front gardens, landscape, open areas, and mature trees which gives it a leafy and green feel.

Irrespective of how you wrap up and sugar coat your intentions with a lengthy report, they are basically to identify how you can show that circa 900 dwellings have been built. This being at the expense of how you would totally change the character of the area which you proudly report on.

Your study raises at least two extremely contentious issues in your methodology of how to achieve this.

1. The loss of front gardens is something none of us wanted. However, commuters using Morden station and Crown House staff and visitors, tended to park in the surrounding roads during the week. Consequently, where there is no attached garage it was not always possible to park residents' cars on the road.

Worthy of note is that a large proportion of the off-road parking has been built besides flower beds and with drainage and so does not affect the water table.

2. Infills will require large amounts of concrete being deposited in rear gardens, and according to Thames Water will disrupt the water table. Given the proximity of the Wandle and the myriad of underground streams in the areas this could cause flooding.

Thames Water has confirmed these points.

In Plough Lane planning permission was given to a small football pitch, surrounded by thousands of flats, with no parking.

Why then not build a block of flats by the side of Crown House. All that would be necessary would be to make the A24 by the Morden Islamic Centre pedestrian access and provide a service road for Crown House. This would benefit residents of Stanley and Queens Road and the scheme could be contracted out and make the build totally self-funding.

By converting shops that have gone out of business into domestic dwellings you should jointly then exceed your target.

This would enable existing homeowners to continue to enjoy the open spaces of Merton in peace, which is a significant reason many people have for moving here.