

DESIGN REVIEW PANEL

NOTES OF MEETING 27th May 2008

Notes are produced in four separate sections as all items were pre-application schemes (by the time of the Panel meeting, Item 2, and part of Item 4 had been submitted as a planning application and notes on these sections will be available on the Council's website at:

www.merton.gov.uk/designreviewpanel

Panel Members Present:

- Marcus Beale
- Cllr John Bowcott (Chair)
- Gary Elliott
- Kirsten Jeske
- David Mean
- Nicholas Waring

Officers Present:

- Paul Garrett: Design & Conservation
- Paul McGarry: Design & Conservation
- Martin Nolan: Community & Housing

Apologies:

- Belinda McGahey
 - Tony Michael
 - Terry Pawson
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Item 1: Hall Place, 5 Church Road, Mitcham Cricket Green

Pre-application scheme – minutes confidential

Item 2: Pollards Hill Library

This item was considered at the previous Panel meeting on 25th March. The panel noted that the criticisms and constructive comments made at the previous Panel meeting seemed to have largely been taken on board.

The Panel was keen to point out that care needs to be taken with the choice of materials for both cladding and glazing. The majority of comments and questions made by the Panel were well answered, including comments on the level of public consultation for such an important local resource.

Overall the Panel was generally positive about the proposal and considered it a good example of the Design Review Panel process working well.

Overall Verdict: **GREEN LIGHT**

Item 3: 41-47a Wimbledon Hill Road

Pre-application scheme – minutes confidential

Item 4: Merton Abbey Mills, Watermill Way, Colliers Wood

The proposal consisted of three elements:

1. An additional (3rd) storey to the 1929 Shop (planning application now submitted)
2. A new building fronting Watermill Way (The Wandle Centre)
3. A site wide surface landscaping plan

1. The 1929 Shop

The proposal was broadly supported and considered to take the right approach by making the addition subservient by setting it back from the main building envelope. There was some discussion about the fins and fenestration. There was however, notable disappointment that the proposals did not take the opportunity to undertake some degree of external refurbishment/decluttering of the existing building. The Panel recommended further work as part of the planning application process which should be undertaken to improve the proposal:

- Explore the potential to include some historical interpretation in the design of the fins (eg. punchcard perforations)
- Declutter the exterior of the existing building (particularly the blue awnings)
- Refurbish the windows of the existing building (which are a key feature) – for repair reasons and to create some continuity of decoration/style (eg. same paint colour) with the new build element

Overall Verdict: **GREEN LIGHT**

2. The Wandle Centre

Pre-application scheme – minutes confidential

3. Landscaping Proposals

Pre-application scheme – minutes confidential