

futureMerton
 London Borough of Merton
 Merton Civic Centre
 London Road
 Morden SM4 5DX

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Rec'd
15/3/2016

16 March 2016

Re :High Path Demolition and New Building Plans.

Dear futureMerton

I write to express my concern over the plans being considered by Merton Council. I have lived in Merton (with the exception of a time of Wartime Evacuation to Devon), for all of my present 89 years. Firstly in High Path, then in Pincott Road prior to Merton & Morden UDC compulsory purchasing my mother's home and moving us into new build flats in Abbey Road. For my working life I, with the exception of a short time in a department store in Wimbledon I worked in the manufacturing industry, along with many of my former neighbours at the Omega Lampworks at their various Wimbledon and Merton locations, including important WW2 specialist work and after WW2 in the Rodney Place Factory.

Although in our move we lost the rear garden, we gained a much larger flat, with ground floor storage, and later we were able to rent a garage for the safe parking of my husband's car -much needed for his work servicing Telephone Exchanges around Surrey in places not accessible by regular public transport.

The right to buy we hoped would give my family some long-term security in where they could live, particularly in the size of the property and its sunny aspect location with a small shared garden for younger members to relax in. We have been unable to find a comparable, affordable, property giving as much internal and storage space over a number of years. Proposed property sizes do not seem to offer either an front doorway opening onto natural light and ambience as we currently have, and no document has shown any kind of size comparison with our particular property, which we think is potentially larger than other ones elsewhere on the estate other than our block and Hilborough Close.

The ideas that Circle have imposed on us over the last few years have been worrying, confusing and unclear as to what their original ideas for improvements to the estate actually were. We would note the lack of day-to-day prompt, effective maintenance of our block and its amenity areas, despite increasing service management charges. We would also note that this end of High Path (High Path, Merton Place, Lovell House and Norfolk/Hilborough) estate generally has its own little welcoming community, and that over the years we have been ignored by tenants' associations and Landlords(*), except when they want something from us. Although decoration work etc has occurred over the years, it has not always been done to a good standard, and appears to be required again, but generally (as previously assured by Merton Council Housing Officers) there is nothing substantially wrong with our blocks (though with age the fitting of a lift is feasible and desirable with some external modifications, in order to assist our transport and access requirements - we understand we would have to contribute financially to such a fitment, and consider that with good value buying this should be affordable.

(*) We would note the upgrade to Double glazing some years ago - more recently for Norfolk House tenants, and

the fitting of roofspace insulation and cavity wall insulation some years ago.

In short, I like my home, I do not wish to see it demolished, nor to lose my external spaces, garden access and access to a garage for my family to use when visiting, but I would like an effective landlord that cleans regularly and attends to repairs and maintenance on a proper planned schedule, otherwise please leave us in quiet enjoyment of our land.

