



# SPD

Supplementary Planning Document  
London Borough of Merton



# Planning Brief

## Nelson Hospital

Adopted | January 2007



Albanian

**Nese deshironi me shume informacion ne gjuhen tuaj, ju lutemi te na kontaktoni ne adresen e dhene ne kutine me poshte.**

Arabic

إذا أردت معلومات إضافية بلغتك الأصلية للرجاء الاتصال بنا في العنوان الممنون ضمن الإطار أدناه.

Bengali

যদি আপনার নিজের ভাষায় লেখা আবেদন উৎস চম ভাবে দল্ল করে আবেদনের সঙ্গে যোগাযোগ ককুন, উলার ক্ সে আমাদের ঠিকানা রয়েছে ।

Chinese

如果你需要用中文印成的資料，  
請按低端方格內提供的地址與我們聯系。

Farsi

اگر مایل به اطلاعات بیشتر به زبان خود هستید، لطفاً با ما از طریق آدرس زیر تماس بگیرید.

French

**Pour tout renseignement complémentaire dans votre propre langue, veuillez nous contacter à l'adresse figurant dans l'encadré du bas.**

Gujarati

જો તમને તમારી પોતાની ભાષામાં વધારે માહિતી જોઈતી હોય, તો કૃપા કરીને નીચે અંતમાં આપેલા ખાનામાં દર્શાવેલા સરનામે અમારો સંપર્ક કરો.

Punjabi

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਵਿਚ ਹੋਰ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਲੈਣੀ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ ਤਾਂ ਲਿਖਾ ਕਰਕੇ  
ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਥਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਟਿੱਤੇ ਪਤੇ 'ਤੇ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

Somali

**Hadii aad u baahan tahay faahfaahin intaa kabadan oo ku soobsan afkaaka hooyo ama Af Somali fadlan lana soo xiira cinwaanka hoos ku qoran.**

Spanish

**Si usted desea mas informacion en su propia lengua, por favor contactenos en la direccion al pie del formato.**

Tamil

உங்கள் மொழியில் மேலதிக தகவலைப் பெற ஆர்வமுள்ளீர்கள், ஆங்கிலம்  
மேட்டிக்குள் தரப்பட்டிருள்ள விவரத்தில் எம்முடன் தொடர்பு கொள்ளுங்கள்.

Urdu

اگر آپ اپنی زبان میں مزید معلومات حاصل کرنا چاہتے ہیں تو براہ کرم  
ہم سے اس پتے پر رابطہ قائم کریں جو کہ نیچے کے بکس میں درج ہے

You can also get this information in  
large print, in Braille and on tape.

Paul McGarry  
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## Adoption Statement

i This document has been produced in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 regarding the preparation of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD). The Council's Unitary Development Plan Policy LD.3: Planning Briefs, states that the Council will prepare planning frameworks for sites proposed for development, either in response to developer interest or to promote appropriate development.

ii In accordance with the above, this Brief is a Supplementary Planning Document to the Merton Unitary Development Plan (UDP), Adopted October 2003. This brief was adopted as such by the Council's Cabinet on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2007. The purpose of this brief is to provide a framework to guide the redevelopment of the Nelson Hospital as a new local care hospital.

iii The UDP is currently being replaced by the new Local Development Framework (LDF) as part of the new planning system created by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. When Merton's LDF is adopted, this SPD will be reviewed to ensure consistency with the policies of the LDF.

iv Any person or organisation aggrieved by this SPD may apply to the High Court for permission to apply for judicial review of the decision to adopt the SPD. It should be noted that any such application must be made no later than three months after the date on which this SPD was adopted.

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# Conformity with Statement of Community Involvement |

## Conformity with Statement of Community Involvement

i Consultation on this SPD was undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 and Planning Policy Statement 12 – Local Development Frameworks. It also adheres to Merton's Statement of Community Involvement, submitted in September 2005 as part of Merton's emerging Local Development Framework (LDF)

ii The consultation primarily consisted of a 6 week consultation period, formal press notification and the SPD being made available on the Council's website and at the Civic Centre and local libraries.

iii This SPD's Statement of Community Involvement outlines the details of the consultation undertaken and can be found in Appendix C of this SPD.

## Background

1.1 This planning brief provides guidance for the redevelopment of the Nelson Hospital in Merton Park. The Nelson Hospital is a community hospital currently consisting of a day hospital for the elderly, a day surgery unit of 10 beds and an outpatient department providing a range of clinics, radiology and neurology services. Sutton and Merton NHS Primary Care Trust are seeking to redevelop the site as a new local care hospital as part of their 'Better Healthcare Closer to Home' initiative.

1.2 Better Healthcare Closer to Home is a joint project by Sutton & Merton Primary Care Trust, East Elmbridge & Mid Surrey Primary Care Trust and the Epsom & St Helier University Hospitals Trust, with a vision "to provide more healthcare in the community" and a network of local care hospitals supported by a critical care hospital. The NHS is undergoing major change; better drugs, advances in medical technologies and surgical techniques provide the opportunity to improve quality of life and life expectancy. These changes will also reduce the amount of time people spend in hospital for routine treatments. As a result, the number of people treated as outpatients and day surgery patients is growing.

1.3 Following a public consultation between September and November 2004, Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust have decided on a new model of healthcare for the boroughs of Sutton and Merton, part of which proposes developing a network local care hospitals that will provide diagnostic services (such as x-ray and ultrasound), minor injuries clinics, day surgery, mental health services and outpatient clinics. This network of local hospitals will be supported by a critical care hospital for emergency care, intensive care, complex operations and specialist care for sick children.

1.4 There has been some debate over the location of the critical care hospital. On the 19<sup>th</sup> of December 2005, in response to a referral by Merton Council, Patricia Hewitt, Secretary of State for Health announced her decision that the new critical care hospital should be built at St Helier. At present the Local Health Economy is awaiting a decision from the Department of Health regarding the site of the Critical Care Hospital.

1.5 Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust have been working closely with the Council to find suitable sites in the borough and have confirmed that two of the new local care hospitals will be located in Merton, the rest being in Sutton. The Merton local care hospitals are to be built on the site of existing NHS facilities at the Wilson Hospital in Mitcham and the Nelson Hospital in Merton Park.

1.6 The purpose of this planning brief is to provide a planning and design framework to guide the redevelopment of the Nelson Hospital site. The brief will assist the designers of the new hospital as well as assisting the Council's Development Control team and Planning Committee members when a planning application is being received for consideration. The brief seeks to ensure that the redevelopment scheme responds positively to the character of the local area.

## History of the Nelson

2.1 The original Nelson Hospital was a converted Victorian villa located at 173 Merton Road, South Wimbledon. It opened in 1900 and was known as the South Wimbledon, Merton and District Cottage Hospital.

2.2 Merton's population increased with the advent on the railways at the turn of the century creating further demand for a local hospital. 1905 was the centenary of Admiral Nelson's final victory, which was an opportune time for fundraising events to provide for a Nelson memorial hospital, to replace the small and increasingly inadequate facilities on Merton Road. In 1909 a deal was struck, purchasing land adjacent to The Rush, on Kingston Road, Merton Park to construct the new hospital.

2.3 The first phase of the Nelson Hospital opened in 1911 and consisted of three pavilion blocks fronting Kingston Road, with wards located to the rear. The symmetrical blocks consisted of two two-storey blocks and a central single storey block.



Original pavilion blocks,  
Kingston Road 1912

2.4 In 1922, the Merton Urban District Council added a new wing to the east of the original blocks, commemorating the men of Merton who lost their lives during the First World War. Of the original three blocks, the middle block later gained an upper floor extension, possibly in the mid 1940s, to coincide with the opening of the Maternity Wing in 1942. There have also since been numerous extensions and modifications to blocks at the rear of the site, however the Kingston Road frontage has largely remained in its original form.

## Site and Surrounding Area

2.5 The site of the present day Nelson Hospital is located in what was the original village of Merton. Historic maps of the area (shown on page 4) clearly show the layout of what is now Kingston Road, Watery Lane, Blakesley Walk and The Rush - all of which form the boundary of the site today.

2.6 The site boundary is shown below and includes the main hospital buildings, mortuary, former nurses home and car parking area. The car park also has a number of significant trees, adding to the character of the area.



Nelson Hospital  
Site boundary

2.7 South and west of the site is generally suburban residential development mostly dating from 1912 and into the 1920s. To the north and east of the site, there are very distinctive architectural qualities to the area including the Old Leather Bottle pub and Merton Park Parade. The streets of Quintin Avenue, Richmond Avenue and Merton Hall Road have distinct residential characters and are within conservation areas.

2.8 The arrangement of buildings and street patterns surrounding The Rush date back to the original settlement of Merton and appears clearly on maps as far back as the John Rocques map of 1741.



### Planning History

2.9 Planning permission was granted in 1995 for a proposed redevelopment of the Nelson Hospital. This permission has not been implemented and the planning permission has therefore lapsed. There are no extant planning permissions for the site.

2.10 The future of health services is under review by the Primary Care Trust and is bound to have some implications for the redevelopment of Nelson Hospital in terms of the range of services provided at the Nelson and the relationship with services in nearby facilities such as Wilson Hospital, Mitcham, St Georges Hospital, Tooting and St Helier Hospital, Sutton.

### Nelson Hospital in 1942 Opening of the Maternity wing

Interestingly, the photo shows the maternity wing with its original hipped roof, which has now become entirely flat roofed.