In responding to your questionnaire we think it is important to point out that there are over 8,000 people registered to vote in the Cricket Green Ward. The population is around 11,500 living in some 4,600 different properties. There is a vibrant ethnic mix in our community. There is significant health inequality in our area compared to the west of the Borough; there is also significant deprivation in the Ward with about 30% of the population economically inactive. The average age of Cricket Green residents is just over 34; and this Ward has the highest number of 15 year olds in the Borough.

You will have seen our 5 campaign promises setting out our commitment for the next 4 years so we will not repeat them here; however, all our campaign promises are intended to improve the quality of life and life chances of all of the people in the whole of the Cricket Green Ward; and we will focus on things that matter including the protection of local health services, the provision of decent homes, providing the highest quality education for children in the area, leisure opportunities for all ages and the protection and promotion of employment opportunities.

In previous correspondence with you we have advised that, in determining planning applications in any part of the Borough, including the Cricket Green Conservation Area, we will follow the Council’s Planning Policies set out in The Unitary Development Plan, the LDF Core Planning Strategy, the Mitcham Cricket Green Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan, the Sites and Policies Development Plan and Policies Map and, where appropriate, any other adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance

We are very conscious of the significance of the Conservation Area. The Council’s development plan Policies require all development proposals to impact positively on the character and quality of the public realm, seek to ensure that any new development respects, reinforces and enhances the local character of the area in which development is proposed. All proposals for development within the Conservation Area (or anywhere else) will be determined having regard to the principles in the Council’s Local Development Plan. We will continue to deal with all planning proposals on their merits.

You are aware of the pressure we have been (and are) exerting to bring about traffic changes in Church Road. Similarly we have supported the retention of Cricket on the Green and assisted the Cricket Club over the years and will continue to do so.

Russell Makin, Ian Munn, Judy Saunders.