



## **WANDLE HOUSE**

**Application number 18/P4017  
November 2018**

1. Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage takes an active interest in the future of the Cricket Green Conservation Area and its environs, including the Wandle Valley Conservation Area. We are the civic society for this part of Merton and part of the wider civic movement through membership of the national charity Civic Voice. We have been closely involved in the development of the Borough Character Studies, the Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan and numerous development proposals in the area. We have worked with the London Borough of Merton and our local councillors to produce the Cricket Green Charter which establishes our approach to development and change in the area and has been acknowledged in the Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan for Cricket Green (<http://mitchamcricketgreen.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/cricket-green-charter.pdf>). We have also contributed to production of the Merton Heritage Strategy as a member of the Merton Heritage Forum. We are members of The Canons Steering Group delivering a £5m Lottery funded project and also undertake practical projects, organise walks and run Mitcham Heritage Day and Community on the Green.
2. We have considered the proposals for Wandle House in the context of the Cricket Green Charter and development plan policies.
3. Wandle House is a significant heritage asset which contributes to the story of this important part of Mitcham, including the long story of industrial use along the Wandle. We welcome the positive impact of the proposals on this listed building and its setting. The reinstatement of Wandle House as a standalone building puts right some of the damage inflicted in the 1960s by the neighbouring office development and the intrusive link. We also welcome the proposals for residential use. This element of the scheme will enhance the Conservation Area.
4. We are disappointed by the limited attention paid to opportunities to enhance the landscape and build stronger visual and physical connections to the assemblage of historic buildings to the south and down to the Wandle. A large part of the site will be retained for car parking in excess of the needs of its office and residential uses and there is scope for this area to be softened and landscaped. The surface should also be made permeable given its proximity to the river. We are also aware of the potential to convert the 1960s office building into residential use under permitted development rights and that there will be no opportunity to address the landscape through this process.

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