



## Cricket Green Charter

This Charter should be used to inform policies, investment priorities and decisions about the future of Cricket Green. It has been prepared during the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of Mitcham Cricket Green Conservation Area and replaces the previous Charter.

The rich story of Cricket Green told through its buildings, open spaces and people sets the standard for how the area should evolve. Undertaking new development which adds to this story is a privilege and all new development should be required to show how it adds positively to Cricket Green's future.

### Quality development

All new development should add to local character and the village feel by being respectful of setting, context and massing with no increase in building height

The predominant residential character based on streets and houses should be maintained and new development based on blocks and flats avoided

The diversity of building characters and styles across different periods is a vital asset and where new development of a contemporary style is appropriate then it should add positively to this story

Any new development facing the cricket ground and other open space at the heart of Cricket Green should be of a standard that could warrant listing within 30 years

A design code for Cricket Green, produced in collaboration with the community, should guide new development

New development on the edge of the Conservation Area should be of a quality that will generate pressure for the site to be included within 10 years

The sensitive lighting and attractive nightscape should be respected and all new external lighting subdued

### Green spaces

There should be no loss of green space and the registered town greens and Mitcham Common should have absolute protection

The variety of open space should be positively managed for quiet enjoyment, recreation, sport and nature and ground markings (such as pitches) and structures kept to a bare minimum

Management plans for each of the registered town greens, The Canons grounds and Mitcham Common should be prepared to benefit wildlife and enhance the landscape, including rationalising the different railings, posts, bollards and supporting a programme of succession planting of trees and more hedges

### Community

Cricket should continue to be played on the green in perpetuity and Mitcham cricket pavilion and operational land should be in community ownership

Cricket Green should be an affordable location to live and land for custom and self-build homes and a community land trust should be provided

There should be more places to meet and things to see and do, including restoring the historic pubs, investing in Wandle Industrial Museum and providing more cultural events, coffee shops, activities and venues for all parts of the community

Local shopping parades, community facilities and business workshops should be protected and enhanced with new opportunities provided for start-ups

Cricket Green's story should be revealed more effectively and more widely told

New development should contribute directly to ensuring local community facilities and services are continually improving

### Walking around

Pedestrian routes should be enhanced throughout the area, including more pedestrian priority at crossings and new links through Benedict Wharf, the Wilson, Worsfold House and the Birches; and to the Wandle Trail, Watermeads and Morden Hall Park

Highways investment should support measures to reduce, calm, pacify or eliminate road traffic and reduce air pollution; including ending Lower Green West's isolation as a traffic island, improving conditions for pedestrians in Cricket Green Road (east), Church Road and at Jubilee Corner, and closing King George VI Avenue to cars

Awareness of the Conservation Area's presence should be self-evident from its coherent and high quality street furniture, paving, boundary features, signage and new development

## Major sites

The Wilson should be revitalised to meet the area's health needs and include community facilities additional to those already available and a drop-off for Cranmer School

Development at The Wilson should be based on a community-led design brief and retain the full classical frontage and symmetry of the existing building facing Cranmer Green

Benedict Wharf should be re-purposed for mixed housing based around new streets and green links as a natural extension of Mitcham, avoiding any visual intrusion into the surrounding area

## The development process

The community infrastructure levy on new development should be spent on priorities agreed with the local community and support delivery of the Cricket Green Charter

Developers should be required to engage early with the local community and be provided with the Cricket Green Charter by Merton Council during pre-application discussions

Planning and highway laws should be rigorously enforced by Merton Council

Unsightly clusters of estate agent boards and 'bad neighbour' activity such as fly tipping, fly posting and illegal parking and advertising should be dealt with swiftly by Merton Council

The Cricket Green Charter presents the conclusions of dialogue with local people, including a community workshop organised by Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage working with the future Merton team at London Borough of Merton and local ward councillors. More than 5,000 households were contacted during its preparation.

[www.mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk](http://www.mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk)

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