



20 March 2020

By email from [info@mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk](mailto:info@mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk)

For the attention of:

Councillor Martin Whelton, Cabinet Member for Housing, Regeneration & Transport, Merton Council

Council Linda Kirby, Chair, Planning Applications Committee, Merton Council

Dear Councillors

#### DELEGATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS

We have seen that the Planning Applications Committee meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> March delegated the power to decide applications that would otherwise go to Planning Applications Committee to officers for up to six months.

A number of highly controversial planning applications for the Mitcham area and its surroundings may fail to receive the full scrutiny of the Planning Applications Committee as a result. The opportunity for public representations direct to the Planning Applications Committee will also be lost. The Committee plays a vital democratic role and it has exercised significant influence over previous planning applications which have secured more positive outcomes for Mitcham. Indeed, there were two important examples of the Committee exercising this influence at the 19<sup>th</sup> March meeting where it did not follow officers' recommendations. The pipeline of planning applications also includes proposals by Merantun Development Ltd where there is clear potential for conflicts of interest that needs the most sensitive navigation.

Development in Mitcham is at a tipping point and the next round of planning decisions on residential proposals will set a precedent for the future of the area that will last for generations. We believe it is essential that this course is decided by the Planning Applications Committee. Where Merton Council is able to do so, such as in relation to the Merantun schemes and major developments such as that proposed for Benedict Wharf, we ask that all steps are taken to negotiate for schemes to come forward after September. The long term implications justify these short term delays.

Specifically, we ask that delegated powers are not extended to officers determining the following planning applications:

- 19 P2747 33 to 39 Upper Green East
- 19 P2383 Benedict Wharf
- 19 P2785 370-374 London Rd Car Wash site
- 19 P4072 360-364 London Road Kwik Fit site
- 19 P4094 Imperial Fields

19 P4118 Behind 8 Preshaw Crescent, Lower Green West  
19 P4048 Raleigh Gardens car park  
19 P4047 Elm Nursery Car Park  
19 P4050 Development Site North Of Numbers 11 To 17 Madeira Road Mitcham [former  
Canons nursery]  
20 P0801 former Mitcham Fire Station

and to any planning applications coming forward on the site of Worsfold House, the former Sparrowhawk Yard, White Hart or former Mitcham gasworks.

Because of the wide public interest in this issue we are making this letter available.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Strover". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John Strover, Chair, Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Mansfield". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a large initial 'J'.

John Mansfield, Chair, Mitcham Society

cc: Ged Curran, Chris Lee, James McGinlay, Neil Milligan, Louise Fleming, Tara Butler, Planning Application Committee members, Ward councillors (Cricket Green, Figges Marsh), Cllr Aidan Mundy