



DATE VALLEY SCHOOL SHELTER – revised planning application
Application number 16/P2368
July 2016

1. Mitcham Cricket Green Community and Heritage takes an active interest in the future of the Cricket Green Conservation Area and its environs. 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 new Character Study, the Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan and numerous development proposals in the area. The Cricket Green Charter (<http://mitchamcricketgreen.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/cricket-green-charter.pdf>) establishes our approach to development and change in the area and was developed in partnership with the London Borough of Merton, the local community and our local councillors.

2. Date Valley School is located in Mitcham Court, a locally listed building that makes an important contribution to the character of Mitcham Cricket Green Conservation Area. This contribution is in relation to both Mitcham Court itself and its role as part of an assemblage of buildings that fringes Mitcham's historic cricket ground and greens. Its role is recognised in the Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan. Any development in this area needs to preserve or enhance the Conservation Area and respect the locally listed building. It also needs to be consistent with development plan policies CS14 (Design) and DM D1, D2 and D4 among others.

3. We have reviewed this revised application in the light of the Cricket Green Charter, development plan policies and its impact on the Conservation Area. We welcome the refusal of the earlier retrospective planning application for retention of the current shelter on the grounds of its visual impact from a number of different locations.

4. The revised plans reduce the overall height from 3.2m to 2.6m and modify the roof design. We welcome these changes. The critical view is from Chatsworth Place and the impact on views of Mitcham Court and across to the cricket ground and green spaces beyond. It is unfortunate that no details of the impact of this elevation have been provided nor is it clear what the colour of the final roof and supports will be. We believe that the structure will still be visually prominent but its impact will be significantly reduced. We are also unclear why the playground has been designated as a car park.

5. We conclude that the revised structure sits more easily in its setting and does not detract significantly from the Conservation Area. On these grounds we do not object to this planning application. We ask that planning consent includes a condition to ensure the final colour is agreed with officers. We would welcome being consulted on these details by either Date Valley School or London Borough of Merton.

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