

# Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage

For the benefit of Mitcham Cricket Green  
Conservation Area and its environs

## **MEMORIAL STONE BY WAR MEMORIAL ON LOWER GREEN WEST Listed Building Consent application number 18/P3359 November 2018**

1. Mitcham Cricket Green Community & 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 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 applaud the motivation behind the proposal for a memorial stone and have considered the proposal against the principles of the Cricket Green Charter and the development plan.

3. The quality of information provided with the application is extremely poor. This is especially disappointing given it is an application by Merton Council and so should be setting the standard expected of all applicants. As a result it is difficult to assess the full impact on the Grade II listed war memorial located on a registered Town Green. The poor quality of supporting information also supports the case for planning conditions to ensure the quality of this permanent memorial is of the standard required in perpetuity.

4. We understand the proposal is to replace two existing paving stones nearest to the war memorial with the memorial stone and that this would lie flush with the ground. The two existing paving stones are 600mm by 600mm and this is also the stated dimension of the memorial stone. As a result the installation will not be a simple replacement and will require a stone surround if it is to fit into the space vacated by the existing stones. The treatment of this surround will have a major impact on the quality of the final result. No details of how this will be achieved are provided.

5. Further details of how the memorial stone will be installed are therefore required through production of a method statement which should be approved before any consent is implemented. The requirement for a method statement should be addressed through a planning condition.

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6. It will also be important that the memorial stone is well maintained and subject to regular inspection so it can be repaired or removed if it becomes damaged. This will ensure the long term sanctity of the listed war memorial. This maintenance requirement should also be addressed through planning conditions.