



**CONCRETE BATCHING PLANT, WATERSIDE WAY - revised**  
**A response by Wandle Valley Forum to London Borough of Merton**  
**Application number 17/P0438**  
**September 2017**

*Wandle Valley Forum was established in 2005 and is the primary consultative forum on Wandle Valley issues for the Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust; the London Boroughs of Wandsworth, Merton, Sutton and Croydon; Greater London Authority and other statutory bodies*

1. Wandle Valley Forum has reviewed the revised proposals for a concrete batching plant alongside the important junction of the River Wandle with the River Graveney. We have considered the proposals in the context of the Wandle Valley Forum Charter (<http://bit.ly/27Yal2m>) and existing development plan policies. We do not consider the changes address the grounds for refusal contained in our April 2017 representations – provided below. They do not address the proximity of the development to the river and Wandle Trail. Nor do they address traffic impacts. We share views expressed that the information provided on both existing traffic movements and air pollution is highly contestable and should not be relied on in reaching a decision on this application.

2. This is an important location in the Wandle Valley Regional Park marking the end of the Graveney, a key tributary of the Wandle. The heavily used Wandle Trail runs past the site and it is alongside a key location where people stand and view the confluence of the two rivers. We recognise the need for concrete batching facilities in the area but have significant concerns over the likely impact and believe this to be a cramped and unsuitable site. Our concerns are exacerbated by the continuing lack of consideration given to the two rivers or the Wandle Trail in the material supporting the planning application.

3. We ask that planning permission be refused on the following grounds:

Impact on amenity – the Wandle Trail runs adjacent to the site and provides opportunities for quiet recreation, healthy walking and appreciation of wildlife. The visual and noise disturbance from the proposed development will have a significant negative impact on this critical asset – recognised in Policy CS5 for its importance in making Merton a “*healthier and better place for people to live and work in or visit*”

Impact on air quality – this is an area already suffering from dust and other pollutants which will be exacerbated by a facility known to be a source of further problems. It is located near to allotments and a school as well as the Wandle Trail

Impact on nature – the site is immediately adjacent to an important wildlife corridor and will have a direct impact on significant trees, woodland and marginal vegetation

General enquiries: [wandlevalleyforum@gmail.com](mailto:wandlevalleyforum@gmail.com)  
Web site: [www.wandlevalleyforum.org.uk](http://www.wandlevalleyforum.org.uk)  
Twitter: @WandleForum

Please respond to Chair, Wandle Valley Forum, c/o 43 Bramcote Avenue, Mitcham CR4 4LW

Impact on water quality – there are significant concerns over the potential impact of run off and pollution of the Wandle/Graveney resulting from the proposed development. This is a cramped site with very little capacity to control run off and avoid pollution

4. The proposals are in conflict with the development plan, including Policies CS5 and CS13, and should be refused planning permission.

#### About Wandle Valley Forum

Wandle Valley Forum brings together people and organisations that care for the River Wandle and its diverse network of open spaces. We provide support and an independent voice for over 100 community groups & voluntary organisations and for everyone who shares a passion for the Wandle. Wandle Valley Forum monitors planning applications for developments which impact on the special qualities and character of the Wandle Valley. We make representations on developments which raise Valley-wide issues by reason of their strategic significance or potential to set a precedent.