



CROYDON LOCAL PLAN
A submission by Wandle Valley Forum to London Borough of Croydon

December 2015

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 welcomes the opportunity to shape the development plan policies for Croydon. Our representations do not fit readily with the section by section format of the response form and so are set out below.
2. Croydon includes an important part of the Wandle Valley Regional Park and has a significant section of the River Wandle, including a source. As well as providing an economic focus through the London Plan, the Wandle Valley is also an essential environmental and heritage asset for the Borough. Recent investment in Wandle Park and at Waddon Ponds demonstrates the important contribution it makes.
3. We welcome recognition of the Wandle in the emerging strategic policies but would urge they feature much more strongly. Specifically:
 - There is a need to provide clear and consistent policies for development immediately adjacent to the River Wandle which recognises its natural and historic significance, respects its character and promotes appropriate access
 - We welcome recognition of the need to work with neighbouring local authorities on cross borough issues (para 2.14) and ask that this be extended to development management policies relating to development immediately adjacent to the River Wandle. This is a cross borough issue par excellence and there is an urgent need for improved and more consistent treatment by the four London boroughs along its length
 - We welcome SP6.5's support for efforts to deculvert the River Wandle and ask that this be extended to both:
 - Safeguarding its open aspect where it currently runs in the open air
 - Opening up the Wandle where it currently runs underground where new development is permitted
 - Wandle Valley Regional Park should feature in the Key Diagram on page 15 and in Figure 5.1

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

- The boundary of Wandle Valley Regional Park should be more accurately represented in Figure 6.2
 - There are references to Wandle Forum in Appendix 2 which should be amended to Wandle Valley Forum. Similarly, Wandle Valley Trust should be renamed Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust or Wandle Trust depending on which organisation is referred to.
4. We look forward to being kept involved in the Plan's progress.

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 80 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.