



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

February 2022

1. Wandle Valley Forum provides support and an independent voice for over 140 community groups, voluntary organisations and local businesses and for everyone who shares a passion for the Wandle.
2. We have established our priorities for the Wandle Valley in the [Wandle Valley Forum Charter](#). This is grounded in the views of community groups, voluntary organisations and local businesses that support us. It sets out a number of issues to be addressed through development plans in the Wandle Valley, including Croydon's Local Plan.
3. Croydon includes an important part of the Wandle Valley Regional Park and has a significant section of the River Wandle, including a source and a large part of its key tributary, Norbury Brook. 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 and we welcome proposals to consider designating the upper reaches of the Wandle Valley as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
4. As participants in the last review of Croydon's Local Plan in 2015 we are more than disappointed not to have been made aware of the current review. We are even recognised in the Plan as a delivery partner for Policy SP7 – Green Grid (pages 758, 760 & 761). Yet, we have checked our email records and no notification of the current review has been received. We believe this raises questions about the robustness of the process of consultation and hence soundness of the Plan.
5. We welcome recognition of the important historic and current role played by the Wandle Valley. We welcome:
 - Recognition of the priority for deculverting the Wandle and Norbury Book (e.g. SP6.5, SP7.4, PW SP1.8) and identifying priority locations (including west of Wandle Park and in Norbury Park) and the benefits realised should be recognised as extending beyond flood risk to enhanced amenity and wildlife value
 - Recognition of the priority for identifying and protecting a network of green spaces and improving the Wandle Trail (SP7.2, SP7.3)
 - Support for development which contributes to the Wandle Valley Regional Park (PW SP1.8)

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

- Recognition of the Wandle as a heritage asset (14.28)
- Recognition of the Wandle's potential as a source of renewable energy (14.39)

6. In order to be considered sound we believe the Croydon Local Plan needs to be strengthened in the following areas:

- There is a need to provide clear and consistent policies for development immediately adjacent to the River Wandle which recognise its natural and historic significance, respects its character and promotes appropriate access
- A commitment to collaborative development management relating to proposals immediately adjacent to the River Wandle on the borough boundary, including pooling of CIL. 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
- A commitment to supporting delivery of a major new green space and nature reserve on both side of the railway between Beddington Park and Mitcham Common (including Beddington Farmlands) connected to the Tier 1 industrial estate west of Purley Way and in collaboration with Sutton and Merton Councils
- Wandle Valley Regional Park, the Wandle and Norbury Brook should feature in the Key Diagram, the Green Grid Figure 9.3 and the relevant Place maps

7. We look forward to being kept involved in the Plan's progress.