



Boris Johnson
Mayor of London
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London
SE1 2AA

26 September 2015

Dear Mayor Johnson

**METROPOLITAN OPEN LAND & HACKBRIDGE SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT
PROPOSALS – London Borough of Sutton reference C2015/72418**

Wandle Valley Forum provides support and an independent voice for over 80 community groups & voluntary organisations who share a passion for the Wandle. We are writing to alert you to a planning application by Sutton Council to itself for a new school on Metropolitan Open Land in Hackbridge, adjacent to the renowned BedZED housing scheme. We believe this presents a major conflict with the London Plan and ask you to use your powers to protect this open land for the future. It is also a Site of Metropolitan Importance to Nature Conservation

The site lies at the very heart of the Wandle Valley Regional Park and its development is of more than local significance. The London Plan is very clear that development on Metropolitan Open Land should only take place in “very special circumstances” (Policy 7.17) and these have not been demonstrated by Sutton Council.

The proposals risk compromising the evolution of the Wandle Valley Regional Park whose contribution to providing new green infrastructure is recognised in Policy 2.18 of the London Plan. The site's development would add to the piecemeal erosion of the enormous opportunity area that lies at the heart of the Regional Park, including an area of open land as large as Hyde Park. This needs careful masterplanning across the Sutton, Merton and Croydon boundaries and we would welcome the GLA taking a much stronger interest in this, working with Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust, Wandle Valley Forum and the local community.

Public consultation on the planning application closes at the end of this month and we ask that you ensure the scheme's conflict with the London Plan is properly considered, including by using your powers to intervene. It is especially problematic as an application by the

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

Council to itself and, remarkably, Sutton Council originally delegated the decision on this controversial scheme to officers.

We should be happy to provide any further information if that would be useful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Burton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping underline that loops back under the name.

Tony Burton
Chair, Wandle Valley Forum