



September 2020

Councillor Martin Whelton
Cabinet Member
London Borough of Merton

Dear Councillor Whelton

We are writing to ask you to withdraw Merton Council's planning application for a replacement to Mitcham Bridge. We recognise the urgent need to reinstate a crossing of the Wandle but the proposed design is not fit for purpose and there has been a lack of effective consideration given to alternatives.

We're sure that you share our ambitions for the new bridge to support active travel, respect the crossing's heritage, enhance the treescape and green space, and respond to the climate emergency. The bridge is being built to last well over 100 years and it needs to be fit for the future.

We believe the best way forward is for you to withdraw the application and ask officers to bring forward options which are less constrained about the land available and better able to meet modern standards of bridge design. We are aware, for example, that the National Trust is open to a discussion about the role of Watermeads' land but it has not been approached about the bridge design. We all stand ready to contribute.

Yours sincerely

Wandle Valley Forum
Merton Cycling Campaign
Merton Residents' Transport Group
Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage
Watermeads Residents Association
Friends of Ravensbury Park
Mitcham Society
Tree Wardens Group Merton

Wandle Valley Forum provides support and an independent voice for over 140 community groups & voluntary organisations and for everyone who shares a passion for the Wandle

**General enquiries: wandlevalleyforum@gmail.com
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