



SUTTON LOCAL PLAN
A submission by Wandle Valley Forum to London Borough of Sutton

April 2016

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 Sutton. Our representations do not fit readily with the format of the response form and so are set out below.
2. Sutton includes an important part of the Wandle Valley Regional Park and has two sections 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 Beddington Park and Carshalton demonstrates the important contribution this makes.
3. We welcome recognition of the Wandle in Objective 18 and the ambitions for a cleaner, more biodiverse and resilient river. We strongly support the plans for “Wandle Valley renewal” and urge that the environmental, social and economic benefits of the Wandle Valley feature much more widely in the final document. It should include more than the “improvements” provided for in Table 7 and support for delivery of the catchment plan. We believe:
 - 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 – this should feature as a Wandle-wide policy and in relation to specific sites, including S56 (Wandle Valley Trading Estate) and S67 (Richmond Green). The expectation in Table 7 for “*new development to be of high quality design and any taller buildings to respect the surrounding built form and neighbouring uses*” singularly fails to acknowledge the need to respect the river and its setting
 - the Plan should include provision for the Community Infrastructure Levy to be pooled with other boroughs in a Wandle Fund, building on the approach set out in Table 36
 - the Plan includes London’s biggest environmental opportunity – the immense area of open land stretching from Beddington Park to Mitcham Common. This 450 hectare network of former gravel workings, landfill, woodland, deer park, ponds and heath is over

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

three times the size of Hyde Park. It has been fragmented and poorly managed for too long and too much is closed to the public. The area needs a coherent plan, co-ordinated management, major investment and fresh governance. As the bulk of this potential “Wandle Metropolitan Park” lies in Sutton it should be a centrepiece of the Plan with a specific identity. This goes beyond the references to improvements to Beddington Park and Beddington Farmlands in Table 7 of the draft Plan

- opportunities should be taken to improve connectivity with and along the river through development managed by the Plan. This includes:
 - enhanced east/west pedestrian and cycle routes through Hackbridge linking the river to the opportunity of the Wandle Metropolitan Park
 - safeguarding access across the railway north of Hackbridge station by securing retention of the Victorian railway bridges threatened with demolition by Network Rail – these are an essential part of the basic infrastructure required for the delivering of the potential for Beddington Farmlands and the wider Wandle Metropolitan Park
 - realising opportunities for improved connections between Poulter Park and Mill Green in the area marked with a red dot below



- more should be made of the Wandle Valley’s rich industrial tradition in supporting economic activity. The Wandle Valley can provide local business with a strong identity that creates jobs and brings prosperity. Already one fifth of London’s manufacturing employment is located within the Regional Park and there are extensive industrial estates throughout its length. New creative and technology industries are also finding a home in the Wandle Valley. Today’s businesses and entrepreneurs can all benefit from being located in a higher quality environment and better connected to the Wandle Valley and its story. The existing Business Improvement Districts, such as in Beddington, have a vital role to play, especially in upgrading industrial estates with the support of enabling development plan policies. The Plan should support a virtuous circle of environmental investment and business benefit by ensuring new development contributes to strengthening the environmental quality, cultural vitality and economic health of the

Valley. This in turn will attract more visitors, expand the range of customers and make Wandle Valley businesses attractive places to work.

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.