



APPLICATION FOR WIMBLEDON NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA AND FORUM
A response to Merton Council by Wandle Valley Forum
May 2021

1. Wandle Valley Forum provides support and an independent voice for 140 community groups, voluntary organisations and local businesses and for everyone who shares a passion for the Wandle.
2. We have considered the proposals to designate PlanWimbledon as the neighbourhood forum to prepare a neighbourhood plan for the proposed neighbourhood area in the context of the Wandle Valley Forum Charter (<http://bit.ly/27Yal2m>). This seeks to “*strengthen the role of local communities in the Wandle’s future*” and to “*support local groups’ work to influence planning and development decisions*”. We have seen the benefits of this being taken forward through neighbourhood planning at Hackbridge and Beddington Corner which completed one of the first neighbourhood plans in London. We are also supportive of the Tooting Bec and Broadway neighbourhood forum and area as designated by Wandsworth Council and are in discussions with those considering the potential of neighbourhood planning for the lower Wandle.
3. We support PlanWimbledon as a neighbourhood forum. It is broadly based and has an appropriate constitution. We have had the opportunity to inform its development.
4. We support the proposed neighbourhood area. This is within the Wandle Valley Regional Park. It has been developed in consultation with relevant local organisations and presents an appropriate expression of the community’s views about the geographic identity of Wimbledon. We welcome the inclusion of the whole of Wandle Meadow Nature Park.
5. Ideally, the boundary would include land on both sides of the river running north from Plough Lane. This would minimise the risks of the Wandle being treated as the edge of the neighbourhood area. Nevertheless, we understand the rationale for the boundary not crossing the boundary with Wandsworth given the added complexity this could bring to the neighbourhood planning process. This also helps to support the rationale for not including Wimbledon Park.
6. We look forward to participating in the work of PlanWimbledon once designated.

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