

Housing and Sustainable Development

London Borough of Merton, Merton Civic Centre,
London Road, Morden, SM4 5DX



Jeremy Pocklington
Permanent Secretary of Department for Levelling up
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Delivered by email: correspondence@levellingup.gov.uk
From: andrew.judge@merton.gov.uk and aidan.mundy@merton.gov.uk

Date: 16th January 2023
Our reference: 22/P2351
Your reference: PCU/RTI/T5720/3308167

Dear Jeremy,

We're writing to you in connection with the time it has taken for the department to recommend to either support or dismiss a third-party request to call-in Merton Council's Planning Committee approval of 22/P2351 (your reference: PCU/RTI/T5720/3308167): the building of 107 dwellings including over 40% affordable on ground vacant for two decades. Full background is attached for reference.

The enclosed documentation outlines the application has been meticulously and thoroughly examined and reviewed in depth by both our officers at Merton and the Greater London Authority before being presented, debated and approved by our cross-party Planning Committee on 22nd September 2022. The scheme achieves the objectives set out in the National Planning Policy Framework, as well as Merton's own emerging local plan, enabling the delivery of strong, vibrant, and healthy community. There cannot be any public benefit to devote further resources at the taxpayers' expense to re-examine the planning merits of this scheme. The planning balance is further set out in the Planning Committee's report included in the accompanying pack.

It has now been three months since Merton's planning Committee approved the application. The delay in proceeding has created uncertainty about the future of this site and the application, that would otherwise breathe new life into land that has been vacant for two decades to the benefit of over 100 families. A cause successive governments, including the current Secretary of State, has championed, and one Merton Council is working to deliver through high quality and affordable housing on behalf of current and future residents.

In view of the above, we welcome any effort to expedite the recommendation to the Secretary of State.

If you or your department require any further information or would like to meet to discuss this matter further our officers are at your disposal.

Yours sincerely,

Aidan Mundy

Cllr Aidan Mundy
Chair, Planning Committee

Andrew Judge

[Andrew Judge \(Jan 15, 2023 23:50 GMT\)](#)

Cllr Andrew Judge
Cabinet Member for Housing and Sustainable
Development



CC: Emran Mian, Director General, Regeneration

Attachments

- A: Extract from Merton Planning Committee meeting of 22nd September 2022 relating to 22/P2351
- B: Supplement Modifications sheet 22nd September 2022
- C: Minutes of Merton Planning Committee meeting 22nd September 2022
- D: Article 31 letter from Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities reference PCU/RTI/T5720/3308167 received 13 October 2022
- E: Savills response to Planning Casework Unit 16 November 2022