

ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION DEPARTMENT

Chris Lee - Director

Open Letter

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My Ref : Mitcham OLF
Please Ask For: Ross Mitchell
Your Ref:

Date: 11 July 13

RE: Fourth Wall Creations – Three Kings Pond benches

To Whom it May Concern,

About Three Kings Pond

Three Kings Pond is a very important part of the Mitcham regeneration project. It acts as a stepping stone between our renewed town centre and the benefits offered by Three Kings Piece and the Common for both play and enjoyment of the natural environment. Few town centres across London boast such facilities and the pond area can help to link and strengthen these.

What is happening?

Artists Fourth Wall Creations have been appointed to propose some new benches for the Three Kings Pond area. They are drawing inspiration from the geese that inhabit the pond and their migration patterns.

Who has commissioned this work?

The work has been commissioned by LB Merton Council, as part of the Rediscover Mitcham project.

Who is paying for it?

This project is supported by LB Merton and the Mayor's Outer London Fund, which is helping improve vibrancy and growth of high streets and town centres across London.

What's next?

As part of the funded Rediscover Mitcham package we are looking to renew walls and brickwork in the pond area which are currently in a poor state of repair. Additionally LB Merton are seeking to put together a Heritage Lottery Fund and SITA funding package for an 'area based approach' to this including the boardwalk mentioned in the Rediscover Mitcham consultation brochure. This would allow us to further draw out the importance of the area.

What about other issues such as problem drinking and pond litter?

Problem drinking – The police have confirmed that additional staff are soon to start in the area and are implementing their summer campaign to reduce street drinking in the area. LB Merton's regeneration team are also working with Safer Merton to coordinate prevention activity on the ground.

Pond Litter – LB Merton's waste team are aware of this issue and will be putting more resource into clearing this in the short term. Additionally, there are opportunities for the community to help with keeping areas like the pond clean and we'd like to hear from you if you'd like to get involved in this.



What is the timeline?

The project needs to be conceived, designed and delivered by the end of September 2013. Fourth Wall Creations are working towards a deadline of 14th September 2013 for installation of the new work.

Why new benches?

The current street furniture is more functional than interpretative. We wanted to bring out the story of the pond and its inhabitants, by introducing a new, artistic and sculptural element to the pond area.

Where will the work be located?

We have consulted the Mitcham Society, MCGC&H and other community members as well as Council conservation officers to decide the best location of the new benches. This is still in progress. There are no plans to remove the memorial bench.

What about the benches that are already there?

We are currently looking at options which may include removing the existing benches that are in poor repair. This will depend upon the state of repair of the existing benches and available funding.

How can the community get involved?

Fourth Wall Creations have engaged with local heritage and community groups, Council representatives in charge of green spaces, and children and staff of St Thomas of Canterbury School. As designs develop, Fourth Wall Creations will keep these groups informed. The comments and suggestions made by these community groups will influence and inspire the final designs.

When will you have a definite proposal?

The phase of detailed design is under way, and Fourth Wall Creations will provide updated designs later this month.

When can we expect to see the new installations?

The new installations should be in place by the end of September 2013.

I hope that this goes some way to answering your questions. Please do not hesitate to get in touch should any aspect need further clarification.

Yours sincerely



Ross Mitchell
Project Facilitator
Future Merton