

Plans for Fair Green, Mitcham

Merton Council sent a representative to the AGM of the Friends of Mitcham Common on September 18th to open discussion about the future development of Fair Green.

I would like to object to a proposal to re-introduce buses to run through the open green.

- Fair green is unique in south London in providing a clear open green space within the town, for people to enjoy. And people do enjoy the space, as it softens the built environment and has a relaxing atmosphere. . I am old enough to have had long experience of this area and removing the road was aesthetically the best thing that has ever happened in Mitcham. To break it up again with a through road and a bus exchange would be a big step backwards.
- There used to be a busy two way road here, which was decidedly dangerous as it passed Wetherspoons because the pavements were very narrow. Buses today are so much wider that a two lane road would be out of the question unless pedestrians were banned.
- It is difficult to see how there could be a bus exchange here. It is easy enough to direct traffic from Tooting through the green but by no means simple to provide a counter flow.
- Any road across the green would be **in addition to** the existing roads which would still be needed for the rest of the traffic and it would increase the noise and visual intrusion of traffic in this area, destroying any tranquillity it has today.

More importantly

- Fair green was an outlying part of Mitcham Common but was ceded to the council in 1923. It is now administered by the council, technically as a pleasure ground, but it retains some of the legal protection given to the Common by the Metropolitan Commons (Mitcham) Supplemental Act of 1891. This complicates any proposed changes, as became apparent in the

last reorganisation. It was then hoped just to move a road from one place to another, only to find that once a road surface is removed the land below reverts at once to common land. New land must therefore be acquired to build extra road space elsewhere in the green— probably needing an Act of Parliament. This may well complicate any plan to open the old through road to buses. (It is highly likely that the paving of a large area of the green to provide a market was itself illegal.)

On these grounds I would urge you to reconsider and reject this plan.

Yours sincerely

Mrs X

(President of the Friends of Mitcham Common)