

COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2013

MOTION - STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE – CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE WITH A FOCUS ON SCHOOL EXPANSION

This Council notes that:

- Merton's open spaces are constantly under pressure from development;
- Dundonald and the wards of Central Wimbledon (Hillside, Abbey and Trinity) have far less green space than other wards: only 10% of the land in Dundonald ward is green space, compared to the borough average of 35%.
- Dundonald ward's percentage of green space is less than any Inner London borough apart from the City of London
- Dundonald Rec is the only public access green space in Dundonald Ward. It is the most popular Rec in the borough with a quarter of a million visitors a year
- The appropriation of 2,578m² for the expansion of Dundonald Primary School amounts to over 5% of the public open space of Dundonald Rec.
- Since 2007 there has been a 50% increase in reception class places in schools within one mile of Dundonald, compared to a 30% increase in the number of four year olds.

This Council believes:

- Merton Council is committed to improving the quality of life for people who live in the borough, and to do so, takes an active role in maintaining Merton's open spaces and improving their quality for users;
- In maximising public access to a network of open spaces in the borough that are sustainable, safe and clean, and that enhance quality of life through promoting active and healthy living.
- Given the lack of public open space in central Wimbledon, that the appropriation of land for the expansion of Dundonald Primary would be detrimental to the above.

This Council therefore resolves:

- To call on Cabinet to reconsider the plans for the appropriation of any public open space in Dundonald Rec. for the expansion of Dundonald Primary, particularly in the light of evidence of alternative options for providing increased school places.

Cllr David Dean

Cllr Iain Dysart

Cllr Suzanne Grocott

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