

Appendix E – Petitions received as part of Adult Education consultation

NB: We have not included all of the signatures in this appendix but simply listed the number of signatories. Full copies of all the signatures etc are available upon request.

Petition 1 – #SaveMAE via 38 degrees

1,264 signatures (this includes additional signatures collected by the Stroke Association on a petition with the same wording)

For Merton Council to both continue and safeguard the provision of Adult Education in the London Borough of Merton.

To honour the pledge that “all residents should have opportunities for a good life across Merton, including... good skills training, life-long learning and work”.

Not to sell the Whatley Avenue site, which has been used for Adult Education for over 30 years, for re-development, now or in the future.

Petition 2 – Petition to save Merton Adult Education services at Whatley Avenue from cuts and/or detrimental changes

Approx 1,000 signatures

Signatories of this petition are not satisfied that the financial case to close Whatley Avenue Centre for MAE has been presented in an acceptable form, nor that the proper scrutiny process has been followed.

Furthermore, any decision to close the Whatley Avenue Centre would conflict with the council’s own Aging Well Programme which hinges on the availability of suitable venues in the community where elderly, disabled and other vulnerable people can feel comfortable. Without these nurturing environments the epidemic of loneliness and isolation will sky rocket in Merton.

Signatories maintain that other viable solutions could be found that will satisfy current students, and maintain very high standards of care and facilities for elderly people, disabled people and people with learning differences. However, we need to cooperate and goodwill of Merton Council. We urge Merton Council to explore a model similar to that of SCOLA in Sutton.

Petition 3 - #JoHoSaysNo

320 signatures

Merton Council intends to try to cover a predicted £32m deficit by potentially selling off the Merton Adult Education (MAE) site on Whatley Avenue to the highest commercial bidder with no thought of consideration of the impact this will have on the 300 children who attend Joseph Hood Primary School.

Petition 4 – Wimbledon WI

55 signatures

Save Merton Adult Education

NB: A letter from the President of the Wimbledon WI was also sent with the petition and is included with the other letters