



Cllr Ross Garrod  
Leader  
Merton Council

28 January 2026

Dear Ross

As the two local civic societies we are writing this open letter to you at a pivotal point in the evolution of plans for the future of Mitcham. The Development and Planning Applications Committee will shortly be making decisions on Clarion's proposals for Majestic Way with consequences that will be felt for generations to come.

These plans come at a time when Merton Council is making welcome commitments to supporting our town and village centres, including the major investments you have announced for Morden and to provide affordable homes as part of the development of Mitcham Gasworks. We applaud their ambition and also welcome your recent focus on supporting Mitcham Village's market and making Fair Green more of a focal point for cultural and community activity, including welcome greening and planting initiatives and the return of Mitcham's bandstand as a performance space and focal point.

The new Local Plan agreed after seven years of public debate also provides immense opportunities for Mitcham through supporting significant new development which respects its character. We backed the sites allocated for development and put forward additional opportunities when the Local Plan was prepared. We stand ready to contribute to plans for the development of the major site you own on Sibthorpe car park. We encourage you to bring this forward soon so it can set the standard for what private developers need to deliver and inspire a brighter future for Mitcham which fully respects its local character.

The plans for Majestic Way could not be more critical for delivering our shared aspiration for Mitcham. We strongly support the ambition of the Local Plan for the site and regret the way Clarion has chosen to ignore it. Instead of following the Local Plan, Clarion has proposed a massive overdevelopment which lacks design merit and overwhelms its surroundings, including St Mark's Primary School. As regeneration specialists Clarion also needs to set high design standards on its other sites, such as Sadler Close, and to prevent the impending blight arising from shops closing along Majestic Way. This is one of our core retail streets and it is imperative to avoid the decline which will inevitably hang over Mitcham if Majestic Way is boarded up for years to come.

We ask you to support a rethink of the plans for Majestic Way as part of a refresh of Merton Council's ambitions for Mitcham, and to be firm, clear and proactive in setting the highest possible standards for private developers. Fresh plans for Majestic Way will also help to avoid any intervention from the Mayor and ensure that decisions over the future of Mitcham remain in local hands. We look forward to working with you to help deliver the future we surely agree Mitcham deserves.

Yours sincerely

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