

1. Open Space.

Protect all the open spaces and green areas in the Borough, including back gardens, from built development and secure their better use?

Yes - we would protect all open spaces and green areas in the Borough. Greens value open spaces and green areas as essential for human well-being and biodiversity. We also want to expand priority green spaces such as allotments – where there are 800 people on the Merton waiting list - to promote healthy and affordable food.

2. Conservation Areas.

a. Protect Conservation Areas from inappropriate development?

b. Press for production of Management Plans and proposals for Conservation Areas?

c. Consider designating Article 4 Directions in some Conservation Areas?

Yes - we would protect Conservation Areas from inappropriate development .

3. Public Involvement.

Ensure that members of the public are fully engaged prior to and during all pre-application discussions with developers on major new developments before a planning application is submitted?

Greens believe strongly in the need to respect and strengthen local communities. We would work closely with resident associations and other local groups to raise awareness of key developments as early as possible in the planning process - so that involvement can shape the design and not just respond after the fact

4. Natural Resources.

Significantly reduce the amount of energy and water now being used in the Borough?

Britain faces an energy crisis as domestic stocks of fossil fuels dwindle and the severity of climate change forces us to accelerate the shift to clean energy. Already the average energy bill is over £1000 and this is set to increase further. The starting point in the transition to a clean energy economy is to reduce demand through comprehensive efficiency measures and diversify our energy supply to best deploy local renewable resources. To raise energy standards in Wimbledon, the Green Party would:

- introduce free home insulation for all homes that need it, with priority for pensioners and those living in fuel poverty

- encourage communities to join together to take advantage of the new 'clean energy cash-back' system so that the borough claims its fair share of our goal to have 1 million solar roofs across the country as soon as possible

- launch a 'green new deal bond' whereby local savers and those outside the borough can invest in projects that raise energy standards in the borough's public sector estate (notably Council buildings, schools, police stations, hospitals etc) and earn a decent return.

To enable residents to better manage resource use, we would work with utility companies to accelerate the deployment of smart meters across the borough, making sure that those on low incomes are not disadvantaged.

5. Environmental Quality.

a. Improve facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and buses?

b. Improve environmental quality of life in residential areas?

c. Re-balance the pedestrian and vehicular space in Wimbledon Town Centre and reduce the impact of traffic?

Greens would work to shift the pattern of transport in the Borough to reduce the need for travel and favour walking, cycling and public transport through

- introducing a 20 mph speed limit in built-up areas

- ensuring that at least 10% of transport spending by the Council is on securing a shift to more active travel like walking and cycling

- promoting green transport plans with local employers

6. Development Control.

Introduce stronger/clearer development control policies following the approval of the Core Strategy?

Greens believe in the need for the community to drive the development process with stronger systems of control following the approval of the Core Strategy

7. Community Cultural/Leisure Facilities.

a. Secure the provision of a good-sized Civic Hall on Council land in the Town Centre?

b. Protect and improve Community Centres and other cultural/leisure facilities?

For the Greens, the continued absence of public space and buildings in Wimbledon town centre is a disgrace. We support the urgent design and construction of an iconic Civic Hall designed to the highest environmental standards to host a diversity of cultural events. We would also work with local groups to introduce a strategy to support and, where necessary, revitalize existing community groups so that they become relevant to all parts of the community.