Name

Address

Email:

Tel:

DATE

Ruth Harris,   
South London Legal Partnership,   
Gifford House,   
67c St Helier Avenue,   
Morden  
SM4 6HY

Dear Ruth,

**LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON PUBLIC NOTICE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 123: DISPOSAL OF LAND BY PRINCIPAL COUNCILS**

**I/We** strongly object to the disposal of land in Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Field as outlined in the notice above for the reasons set out below:

1. In 1935, the park was covenanted in perpetuity as a playing field and recreation site with the assistance of the Carnegie Trust and the National Playing Fields Association (<https://www2.merton.gov.uk/sir_joseph_hood_memorial_playing_fields_management_plan_-_part_1__pgs_1-25_.pdf>) and **I/WE** oppose any development which does not contribute to this covenant and strongly object to disposal of land which is covenanted to the local people.
2. The proposed location of the structure is within an area which has been designated as a “Site of Borough Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation” by the Greater London Authority and as Metropolitan Open Land. It has also been declared as a Local Nature Reserve in 1994. (<https://www2.merton.gov.uk/sir_joseph_hood_memorial_playing_fields_management_plan_20061-2.pdf>) As the area is a designated Local Nature Reserve, there are concerns that long term exposure to electromagnetic fields may pose potential risks to birds, insects, the health of nearby plants including trees, and bats. There is evidence of bats roosting by the woodland, which is also an important linear route for feeding. Bats are a species protected by European legislation, meaning that any development which may have a detrimental effect on them requires a detailed bat survey.
3. The proposed site is immediately adjacent to a children’s playground, paddling pool and sports facilities for young people (football, basketball and table tennis); this raises concerns from both an aesthetic point of view, restriction of the above activities and potentially creates conflicts with the guidelines set down by the International Commission on Non-Iodizing Radiation Protection.
4. Merton Council’s Management plans have indicated “the vision for Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Field is ‘to encourage healthier lifestyles, strong inclusive communities and an appreciation of nature through the provision of an attractive, high quality space...accessible to all” and **I/WE** feel that a structure of these dimensions will detract from this (<https://d1ssu070pg2v9i.cloudfront.net/pex/carnegie_uk_trust/2016/02/pub14550114361.pdf>)
5. **I/WE** object to the Council apparently disposing of land for revenue, when the Council holds this particular land in covenant for the local community and does not actually own the said land.
6. Importantly, as a local resident and user of the park, **I/WE** also strongly object to the lack of engagement with the local community; the fact that the Public Notice has not been distributed or displayed to the local residents or users of the park. As a result, due time has not been given to local residents and park users to consider the so-called Public Notice and object if they wish to.

Yours sincerely,

**Name/s**