

Comments from Dave Lofthouse, Arboricultural Manager of 'Greenspaces', London Borough of Merton in relation to issues presented by the AELTC Planning Applications as they affect trees. (Merton PA 21/2900 Wandsworth PA 2021/3609

(Quotations used with permission)

In relation to the showcourt and nearest veteran trees:

*'...The shading issue is definitely of possible significance, particularly for Oak which is not very tolerant of shading and will certainly change canopy shape over time with a bias towards the light. I do not believe that would make a mature tree unstable without some other agency being involved but it needs to be remembered that veteran and mature trees can be particularly affected by changes in their immediate environment - the light regime being just one element of this. trees - since they have had a great deal of time to make the best of it.*

*..It's also important to remember that root systems are not circles - that is just a human conceit as we like the convenience of imposing un-natural order upon nature. It is further, too frequently forgotten that the circle on a BS 5837 plan is a minimum protected zone and is by no means guaranteed to be the area required for the tree's healthy growth and survival. Mycorrhizal associations, water relations and the light profile which you have highlighted are just a few of the elements that can be affected well beyond a notional RPA.'*