

CLE Design/Queens Road Residents Group

Dear Future Merton Team,

We are pleased that a plan has been presented for response and would like to endorse all of the observations made by the

Friends Of Wimbledon Town Centre...

Merton New Local Plan Consultation – our views

Questionnaire Section 6: Places and spaces in a growing borough Questions 29-30 D5.1

High architectural/design quality: more detail and rigour are needed to explain 'high quality' and facilitate enforcement.

Policy needs to be more positive on enhancing conservation areas and other heritage.

Questions 31-32 D5.2 Urban design and public realm

Questions 37-38 D5.5 Managing heritage assets.

More needs to be done on this policy. The draft plan mentions here again 'Merton's published Conservation Area character

appraisals and management plans and the guidance statements set out in the Borough Character Studies.' The local plan

should include a commitment to keep these documents up to date to reflect changes that have taken place since they were

originally written, and to write those documents which are still missing.

Questions 41-42 D5.7.

More needs to be done on this policy. It needs to incorporate strong protection for neighbours' daylight, sunlight, and privacy.

We do not agree to tall buildings in Wimbledon Town Centre: local people have consistently said that new buildings

should not be higher than 6/7 storeys/22m.

We do not agree that **this policy ensures the creation of sustainable, efficient and high-quality design and layout of the**

urban environment. The policy needs explicit targets and standards and to emphasise the protection of privacy and

daylight/sunlight against potentially intrusive development.

Digital infrastructure

More needs to be done on this policy. The draft plan specifies: 'In particularly sensitive areas, notably where heritage assets

are affected, locate equipment in underground chambers.' The plan should recognise that there are likely to be many places

that are particularly sensitive to the impact of telecommunications equipment.

Section 9: ECONOMY

More needs to be done on this policy. Job creation is important, but it must be seen as part of a balance of goals that include

tackling climate change and creating an environment where people will enjoy living and working.

Question 68

The plan should recognise that the aim should be not just to generate trips to Wimbledon, but to make Wimbledon town centre

a great place for the people who already live and work there.

Question 83 TC7.9

Culture, arts and tourism development

More needs to be done on this policy. As neither the description nor justification of this policy seem to be accessible online, we

cannot agree that this policy supports the provision of cultural, arts and tourism uses.

Question 84

The omission of any reference to seizing the opportunity to create a music centre for local, London-wide, national and international

performers and audiences is to be regretted. Such a project has had significant public support in Wimbledon for many years.

Blue and Green Infrastructure: Section 10 of the consultation survey, questions 85-106, refers to these issues. Here, there is a

chance to give your views on how the Council should devise and implement policy to tackle

Question 67 Policy EC7.1

Promoting economic growth and successful high streets:

toxic air, noise pollution, threats to our green spaces and other threats to health and well-being. You may want to mention the following points as examples of measures that could be taken – protecting back garden land, a major tree-planting programme or significant financial penalties for developers who harm biodiversity.

Climate Change: In the survey, section 12, questions 118 to 131 are about the detail of climate change policy. We suggest there

could be more details on flooding and water shortage, subsidence and overheating. In the town centre, the plan's emphasis on

retrofitting existing buildings & improving energy performance and on re-using building materials is not well supported by current

practice in encouraging big new office blocks in the town centre.