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From: B [REDACTED] Aglen [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 January 2019 16:31
To: Future Merton
Cc: Councillor Stephen Alambritis
Subject: Future Wimbledon Masterplan: consultation response

Dear Future Merton

I am responding to the consultation on the Future Wimbledon Masterplan. My response focuses on the plan for a new concert hall to be included in the development of the town centre.

Your document questions whether there is a 'credible, sustainable and viable business case for a multi-cultural venue in Wimbledon'. I encourage you to consider that the existence of a concert hall in the centre of Wimbledon would greatly enhance the town, and enable it to develop as an important cultural centre. The favourable existing transport links, potentially to be greatly improved if plans to develop the rail system are selected carefully, make Wimbledon an ideal location for cultural events with a wide appeal, for which at the moment there is no suitable venue.

Your document refers to the importance of well-being and mental health, and talks of sustainable development with economic, social and environmental objectives. You mention the importance of nurturing communities and shared vision. Providing a venue which could become both a local and international centre for music-making and singing of all genres would surely meet your various objectives. The benefits to mental health and well-being of communal music-making and singing at all levels are now widely discussed. The new concert hall could become a cultural centre of great benefit to all sections of the community, encouraging participation and community cohesion, while at the same time enabling Wimbledon to make a mark on the international music scene, with potential economic benefit.

The current plans for the new concert hall which have the benefit of the internationally-known architect Frank Gehry and support from the music industry should be adopted. A concert hall in the centre of Wimbledon could become a vibrant creative and social hub of the town with the potential of attracting investment and funding from outside the area, and I encourage you to ensure the development plans for Wimbledon Town include such a hall.

Yours sincerely

B [REDACTED] Aglen