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Sent: 06 January 2019 23:48
To: Future Merton
Subject: Local Plan

Wimbledon Town Centre is currently a bustling lively town centre any time of the day and evenings. There is a good community feel to the town with its cinemas, both the Wimbledon and the Polka Theatres, restaurants, shops, cafes, library, offices and nearby schools. The cafes are thriving with people from all walks of life meeting up with friends, mothers on maternity leave, nannies, students, office workers, retired people, people who work at home, parents of school children, visitors to theatres, sport events and art events to name a few. The proposed mid-rise and high rise buildings will change the atmosphere and look of the town centre and be detrimental to existing historical buildings. High rise developments usually are accompanied by shade, and unpleasant wind tunnel effects to be found at Victoria and Staines an environment which is not going to entice people to the centre of the town.

The local plan seems to be biased towards an increase in office space and shops in higher buildings, not in character with Wimbledon and current patterns of work and shopping which are rapidly changing and unpredictable. Plus the plan would have a big impact on the surrounding residential areas. People in the future, it appears, will have more leisure time and will possibly be working from home on a regular basis. At the moment Department stores are going through hard times with so many people shopping on line, lets hope Elys survives. So a plan for a future Wimbledon should reflect the coming changes in lifestyle. Nobody in Wimbledon wants the town to become like Croydon with tall buildings, lots of cement and quite a ghost town with low quality retail and empty shops. The Wimbledon plan should concentrate on making Wimbledon a centre to eat, relax, enjoy culture and to shop. A new concert hall/cultural arts area would be welcome plus in the town.

Why was the consultation process not made more generally known to the general public and Wimbledon residents? I have searched through the Autumn 2018 issue of mymerton and could not find any reference to the consultation. The plan is difficult to find on the Merton website. My neighbours were not aware of the proposals not having seen any leaflet drop through their home letter boxes concerning the Future Wimbledon Masterplan Consultation.

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