

[REDACTED]

From: A [REDACTED] Chester [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 January 2019 21:42
To: Future Merton
Cc: E [REDACTED] Whitehead; J [REDACTED] Mellors
Subject: Wimbledon's Masterplan

Dear Sirs,

While I appreciate the efforts the Council has made to to consult public opinion, i am writing to object in the strongest possible terms to the scale of the buildings proposed in the Masterplan. I attended the public meeting on 12th November in Wimbledon Library where presentations of the plan were made by Council members. Like many in the packed meeting, I wondered if the illustrations had been deliberately chosen to disguise the impact that 18 storey towers will have, however few they might be. At no point has there been a simple graphic comparison, from the man in the street's point of view, between the tallest buildings currently near the station (8 storeys along St George's Rd) with the proposed 18 storeys. All the plans have been drawn from an aerial viewpoint, which has a flattening effect.

Speaking to the Leader of Merton Council, Stephen Alambritis, in the interval of a Christmas concert, I learned that it was the Mayor of London who had advised Merton "to build up" if there was no space to "build out". Evidently it is hoped that income from the proposed towers would help fund Crossrail 2. Is there any research to back this hope?

Wimbledon is one of the green lungs of London. Tall buildings are intimidating, block the sunlight, create wind tunnels and destroy the relaxed atmosphere which is a precious quality of the suburbs. Everyone will be overlooked, from the top of Wimbledon Hill down to Colliers Wood. Surely regeneration (needed mostly in the Broadway, which, incidentally, will not be touched) can be achieved without resort to such extremes.

Perhaps our objections would be more effectively addressed to the Mayor of London.

Yours faithfully,

A [REDACTED] Chester.