

[REDACTED]

From: T [REDACTED] Conway [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 January 2019 21:18
To: Future Merton
Subject: Local Plan

Dear Sir or Madam

Having seen the proposed plans for Wimbledon, I have a number of significant concerns the most important being.....

Building heights

- The scale and intensity of the proposed development are quite inappropriate for Wimbledon town centre.
- Such building heights would adversely impact neighbouring residential areas and would change the essential character of Wimbledon.

Evidence

- The Masterplan contains little or no data to justify the suggested need for a projected extra 8,000 jobs and proposed 50% increase in commercial space in the town centre.
- Growth in demand appears to be assumed, on the basis that 'if we build it, they will come'.
- No account appears to have been taken of new technologies, more flexible ways of working and changing shopping patterns, which taken together are likely to reduce the demand for traditional office and retail space over the next two decades.

Metropolitan or Major centre?

- In the Mayor of London's draft London Plan, Wimbledon is defined as a "Major Centre", with high commercial and residential growth potential. However in the draft Masterplan, Merton Council states that it would like to see Wimbledon recognised as a "Metropolitan Centre", thus allowing much larger scale development akin to centres such as Croydon. There is no justification for this attempted re-classification apart from the hubris of Merton's local politicians.
- I strongly reject this vision for the future of Wimbledon. What makes Wimbledon special is that the town centre is bounded by residential streets on all sides. The scale of the redevelopment proposed would destroy this vital element of Wimbledon's identity.

T [REDACTED] Conway
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