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From: S [REDACTED] Dirmikis [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 January 2019 20:09
To: Future Merton
Subject: Consultation on Future Wimbledon Masterplan

I attended the public meeting on the Masterplan on 12th November 2018 and I subsequently examined the plan online and the printout in Wimbledon Library. I have lived in Wimbledon for 40 years. Here is my response:

I think it is premature to make this plan before the final decision on Crossrail 2 is made. A cynical view would be that the Masterplan is intended to help the economic case for Crossrail 2, rather than to be attractive to local residents.

I am not happy about the vision of Wimbledon as mostly a business centre, i.e. a Metropolitan Centre, rather than a mixed residential and business centre, i.e. a Town Centre as envisaged in the Mayor of London's draft London Plan.

The emphasis on increasing the amount of office space is puzzling, given the increase in flexible ways of working which reduce the demand for office space. Wimbledon seems to have plenty of office space already,

The emphasis on shopping is odd given the well documented rise in online shopping and the decline in town centre shopping. A large proportion of shops in our town centre are charity shops, not commercial entities.

I am unhappy about the proposal for high rise buildings of up to 18 stories and feel strongly that these would not fit into the character of Wimbledon Town Centre.

I was shocked that the Masterplan does not include a possibility of affordable housing. The council should encourage such housing.

I welcome the proposal for a new Concert Hall in Wimbledon. We were promised one 30 years ago when the previous one was demolished in order to create Centre Court Shopping Centre,

In summary I strongly prefer the view of the Mayor of London's draft plan which classes Wimbledon as a Town Centre, suitable for a mix of residential and commercial uses.

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