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**From:** w [REDACTED] eaves [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 22 December 2018 18:19  
**To:** Future Merton  
**Subject:** Master plan and local plan- deadline for response 6th January

I wish to raise the following points in response to reading the Masterplan:

Both the Masterplan and the Local Plan refer to a need for denser development and more “mid-rise” buildings in Wimbledon town centre, to enable commercial growth, up to 18 storeys high. This does not fit in with Wimbledon's current skyline which is much lower and in keeping with a largely residential, thriving economically area. It will be seen from a distance, particularly those living in the town and on the slopes of Wimbledon Hill where there are currently beautiful views to the south. The considerable historic heritage of the area is threatened by modern buildings in unsympathetic materials.

No evidence has been clearly provided as to the need to increase commerce in the town centre and provide an extra 8,000 jobs. Employment is currently high and Wimbledon does not need to become more of a business and retail hub as the area is very well served in both aspects. We are not a hub in the way that Kingston and Croydon are.

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 20 years.. Concern should instead be focussed on saving and reviving the existing high street from these changes.

What Wimbledon **really needs** is an improvement in community space and services- eg the proposed concert Hall and a development of the library facilities as well as more multifunctional open spaces in the heart of the town for low level initiatives such as markets and pop-up cafes. This would be far more in keeping with the existing town and its ethos as echoed by many of the residents,

With kind regards

[REDACTED] S [REDACTED] Eaves  
Wimbledon resident.