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**From:** M [REDACTED] Kane [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 03 January 2019 14:36  
**To:** Future Merton  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Masterplan and Townplan of Wimbledon

I have grave reservations about the plans to augment Wimbledon to a Metropolitan Centre. The current charm of Wimbledon which is very easily eroded is low rise unthreatening buildings, lots of green parks and playground areas, good public community services such as the library, the arts space, the police station, and several historic buildings which were saved from demolition by the skin of our teeth during the last town development in the 1980s. Wimbledon could very easily become a smaller version of Croydon – a town that has been visually destroyed.

We currently have mid rise buildings on the Broadway of 6 & 7 storeys which are unpleasantly dominant and a high rise YMCA building. The Masterplan proposes increasing the number of mid-rise and high rise buildings – some even 18 storeys. This would completely dominate the centre of the town and would look incongruous and threatening. Do we really need office blocks in this technical age when work can be done from out of town areas. The increase in office workers and the ensuing transport and traffic build up will not help Wimbledon at all – there will be even more burger bars taking over what were a mixed range of retail outlets.

There is a definite need for more culturally inspiring places in Wimbledon and the proposal for a music hall is very welcome. When the original town hall was demolished in the 1980s we were promised a replacement which has never happened. Now is the chance to replace it with a building that will bring people into the area in the afternoons and evenings and be a landmark for Wimbledon. We also need a proper town square and a pedestrianised area. This would give space for more greening of the area with trees and low level planting which would help counteract the high levels of air pollution we are currently enduring.

M [REDACTED] Kane [REDACTED]