

Katharine Thomas

From: Jessica Lawrence <jessicaf61@yahoo.co.uk>
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To: Future Merton
Subject: response to Masterplan

Response to the Future Wimbledon Masterplan.

Whilst I appreciate the need for change and development I would like to restrict, for example, the height of new buildings in the town centre to nearer 9 or 10 storeys as higher-rise would look out of place and dominate what is a small area closely surrounded by residential streets. I would hope that any buildings were constructed with designs and materials sympathetic to the existing built landscape. Wimbledon has a strong historic heritage which I would not want to see subsumed into a mixed high rise development.

I am also not clear - the Masterplan does not give sufficient evidence - of the need for the proposed extra commercial space. Indeed I am under the impression that there are empty office spaces existing.

I can see that there is a need for some regeneration of Wimbledon Town Centre, and would like to see more independent retailers encouraged. Whilst I am in favour of attempting to reduce pollution and traffic generally, I would be firmly against the idea of pedestrianizing the Broadway, as this would only increase traffic problems in the surrounding area, which is largely residential. This is self evident when roadworks or an event such as the Winter Wonderland occurs and traffic is channeled down the local residential streets, increasing pollution and creating traffic jams.

I am very much in favour of more green spaces where possible and appreciate the plan's emphasis on making the centre more attractive and feel that this should be done carefully with a long term view.

I am also very much in favour of the idea of a new concert hall, which I have heard talk of for a long time now and feel would become a worthy asset, alongside the existing theatre, attracting many visitors to Wimbledon throughout the year. There would however have to be sensible parking facilities taken into consideration.

Overall the plan I feel is over-ambitious and do not agree with the idea that Wimbledon should become a 'Metropolitan Centre' as it is simply not viable in the space available.

Yours
Jessica Lawrence
(SW19 resident)