

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 January 2019 00:46
To: Future Merton
Subject: Proposed planning for Merton

Disgraceful these plans have not been publicized and for such an extreme proposal, all residents should be notified.

I object for lack of transparency and trying to sneak this in without anyone knowing in an underhand way.

I agree with the following

I would like to comment on the proposed Local Plan for Wimbledon

I am concerned that not enough is being done to inform residents of the plan. I only found out about it due to a friend telling me. As it is a major redevelopment I think the Council should have mailed info to all residents. Info about the change in the rubbish bins seems to have been more widespread.

I welcome the stress placed on the plan of maintaining the historic atmosphere of Wimbledon however, I am concerned that buildings of mid-high rise do not overwhelm the town centre. I would like to see a clearer definition of mid-high rise. I would like a cap on residential building of 4 storeys and for commercial space 8 storeys.

As regards buildings of architectural value, one way would be to use stone and brick that is commonly used in the area. I feel the Wimbledon Bridge building is an example of a building that does not suit its environment and took little concern for its surroundings. I would hope future buildings would consider the environment in which they are placed.

In the plan stress is placed on the cultural assets of Wimbledon. There has been for over 30 years, a plan to build a concert hall in Wimbledon which has had residents support but not much by the Council. Since a major world class architect has shown interest in designing the hall I am stunned this has not motivated the Council to move ahead with the project. If the aim is to improve cultural venues in the area this would do that and bring in large numbers of people to the concerts and to see the hall. I would like to see concrete action for this hall to be built.

As to the plan for the area around South Wimbledon station, I think this is a good idea. The area is in need of improvement and better air quality should be a priority.

Overall, I welcome the Local Plan's view of improving the status of Wimbledon however I am concerned about the need for substantial expansion of commercial space around the town centre. I do not want to see Wimbledon become a mini Croydon. I would question the need for so much more commercial space. Wimbledon is a residential area with commercial space not a commercial area with residential areas and the emphasis on the residents needs to be kept.

As to Crossrail 2, as a resident Wimbledon I do not want the centre to become a building site for many year so it probably goes without saying, that I believe the tunnel for the tracks should go underground before it reaches Wimbledon. Although cost is an issue I believe destruction of the town centre cannot be justified when an alternative is viable and in reality the benefits of Crossrail to Wimbledon residents is limited.

I would like to make some comments regarding the Master plan for Wimbledon.

I have recently moved back to Wimbledon and had no information about the proposed plan from the Council. A friend told me about the proposed plan and the meeting on Nov 12th. I do not think adequate info. has been given to residents. Certainly, I received info on the change of rubbish bins but not on the redevelopment plan.

I consider the aim to make Wimbledon a Metropolitan Centre with dread. The negative example of Croydon with its over abundance of offices and rather soulless

environment seems to have been ignored in this plan in its push for more and more commercial space to be built in Wimbledon.

I am concerned that the evidence to support an expansion of commercial space is not clear.

In the meeting I attended, the fact that Lidli was moving its headquarters out of Wimbledon was used to suggest that if there was more office space in Wimbledon they would stay. Is that truly the situation? Lidli is in the process of a large nation wide expansion and it would be unlikely they would have stayed in Wimbledon. And, if as was said in the meeting, there is a huge demand for commercial space, then surely there are other companies ready to occupy the space vacated by Lidli. I frequently see adverts for vacant commercial space, so I would have liked to have seen evidence of how much commercial space is available in Wimbledon and what percentage is unoccupied and for how long.

It would seem to me that if the Council wants Wimbledon to become a Metropolitan Centre one major component of that would be to support the development of a concert hall. A significant venue would result in many benefits. However, this idea has been floated for over 30 years and has not received much support from the Council. It is about time the Council gave the idea more support and consideration.

I do not want to see higher building but recognise this is probably unavoidable. However, I would like to see a cap on heights of new buildings in residential streets of 4 storeys and in the town centre or commercial areas 8 storeys.

I also would like to see more done to protect the historical nature of buildings in Wimbledon as I believe this is a significant reason why people choose to live here.

Thank you for considering my comments

Regards

P Lyons