

[REDACTED]

From: G [REDACTED] Master [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 December 2018 11:39
To: Future Merton
Subject: Wimbledon Town Centre Plan

Dear Sir

I wish to object to both the recommendation and justification for building a new group of tall buildings in Wimbledon, both around Worple and St George's Road, and also for the YMCA to be permitted to build up to 14 storeys in the Broadway.

At a community meeting with our MP last month it was suggested by a Council representative that 'these proposals are already part of existing plans.' I am not aware of any such plans or documents identifying sites for tall buildings in Wimbledon Town Centre.

Any expansion of Wimbledon Town and environs must be sensitively designed. The Council has a duty to provide good growth: organic, healthy, sustainable growth.

A group of shiny steel steroid-enriched towers for 8,000 new workers adjoining low buildings and homes is wrong. Any further commercial space must be accompanied by associated hard and soft/social infrastructure. Council insistence on intensification of such a tiny space will degrade residential amenities and damage the stability of the existing community.

Surely a document entitled a Masterplan must contain a Mission Statement and Positioning Statement for the Town, and include all aspects of town life - traffic, air quality, policing and security, peak tourism planning, public realm/pocket parks, and of course committing the P3 site to a new concert hall.

At the HEART of the new town, Wimbledon requires a performance venue to replace the hall stolen from our community by local government. Why is this new Hall not identified in the Masterplan? Cllr Alambritis certainly forced through his football stadium; why has he refused to back this excellent venture? Instead he shouts that Westfields in Wimbledon ("great stuff") is all it will take to make the future town a success.

If these issues outlined above are excluded from the Masterplan, the 136 page document is incomplete, a smokescreen for what is just a poorly justified 'supplementary planning document' for the Council to sneak in developer CIL money - without regard for the vast social and economic damage it will undoubtedly bring to Brand Wimbledon - Merton and the Southwest's golden goose.

Yours sincerely,

G [REDACTED] Master