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From: T [Redacted] Northwood [Redacted]
Sent: 05 January 2019 17:37
To: Future Merton
Subject: Response to consultation on Future Wimbledon Masterplan

Hello.

Here is my response to the limited consultation of residents on the Future Wimbledon Masterplan.

This plan describes an approach which is growth at any cost - including the cost to a residential community.

How about considering growth in terms of growth to the cultural and social aspects of the community rather than growth to the business rate income for the council?

Commercial buildings (including the YMCA) should be restricted to 6 stories in height as anything greater than that destroys the character of the local community. The other buildings on the corner of Trinity Road and the Broadway are no more than five or six stories in height. It seems to me that in the redevelopment of the YMCA its height should be reduced to 5 or 6 stories rather than increased to 14 which is what is in the Masterplan. The building should be kept in the nature of the surrounding _residential_ area. This is NOT a commercial office or high-rise block area of Wimbledon.

Other plans for the commercial space in the centre of Wimbledon - near the station - are wholly inappropriate for Wimbledon town centre. It would adversely impact neighbouring residential areas and would change the essential character of Wimbledon, whilst exacerbating current traffic congestion and pollution issues in the town centre.

I also think that your thinking about the so-called economic benefits of the growth of commercial space in central Wimbledon is naive and lacks any sort of evidenced-based investigation or analysis. Really you do need to try harder to justify the approach you are taking.

I would also recommend that you leaflet the wider Wimbledon area and hold more public meetings in Wimbledon so more people can understand what you are trying to do to the character of Wimbledon. In a plan of such wide-ranging implications it is insufficient just to put a 136 page document on your website and a small communication in "MyMerton". This is a very passive approach to consultation whereas you should be trying to actively engage with the local community and not try to pull the wool over their eyes.

Regards,

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T [Redacted] Northwood

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