

## Q20 Do you have any other comments on the draft Local Plan?

Answered: 28 Skipped: 137

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Please see our earlier comments, submitted 6 January 2019	1/27/2019 6:35 PM
2	I am pleased that you have one to share with us	1/15/2019 5:28 PM
3	Thank you for the time put into this.	1/6/2019 11:05 PM
4	I think building office blocks of up to 18 storeys would ruin the appearance and desirability of Wimbledon and reduce its attractiveness as a place to live. Office towers should be limited to eight storeys at the maximum.	1/6/2019 10:32 PM

## Merton new Local Plan

5	<p>Merton Cycle Campaign (MCC) is the local group of the London Cycle Campaign. MCC promotes cycling and seeks to make Merton's streets better and more pleasant places, for the benefit of individuals, local communities and the wider environment by raising awareness of cycling issues, campaigning to improve conditions for cycling and providing a range of services for our members. MCC's ability to comment on the Draft Local Plan in relation to cycling, active transport and healthy streets has been hampered by the fact that the consultation draft of the Infrastructure Chapter (which was stated as incorporating Transport policies) was not correctly published to the Merton website. The Transport Section (6.4) of the Chapter was shared with MCC on 4 January when this was drawn to the attention of Officers, and MCC was offered an extension of the deadline to comment on the Transport Chapter, which we appreciate. However we are particularly concerned that this crucial chapter has not been available to residents, local groups and businesses to review and comment on for the full consultation period as Strategic Objective 5 of the Plan aims to 'make Merton a well-connected and accessible place where walking, cycling and public transport are the modes of choice when planning all journeys' by "creating streets and routes that encourage the use of cycling, walking and other modes of sustainable travel'. More generally, we welcome the acknowledgement from the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, that the built environment is a major driver of health inequalities and that unhealthy high streets and poor air quality impact negatively on health and the desire for the Local Plan to incorporate health and wellbeing into policies and vision so everyone has a fair chance at a healthy life. It is therefore disappointing that the role that cycling and active transport can have in achieving in this objective is not embedded across the policies set out in the Draft. On the evidence of the Draft Plan Policies, it does not appear that the Healthy Streets approach is yet embedded in the Council's thinking. Most policies make more references to main roads, car parking and vehicle access to sites than they do to sustainable transport. For anyone in Merton an urban center is no more than 10 minutes away by bicycle. But, in most cases, there is little prospect that the cycling route to get there will look accommodating or feel safe. If the public realm is to be designed to prioritise active transport (Policy D5) then it is essential that Merton take account of the Draft London Plan's Policy T5 requirement that, throughout the Borough, barriers to cycling are removed and infrastructure improved to create a healthy environment in which people choose to cycle.' Cycling needs to be front-and-centre in a strategic plan if there is to be any chance of implementing a coherent network of quality cycle routes – because in individual developments cycling almost always isn't considered. For 'Housing' the Merton Local Plan 2020 admirably takes serious account of the Draft London Plan's target uplift in housing of 228% proposed for Merton, yet Merton's 2020 Plan takes no account of the Draft London Plans Policy T5 requirement that such Plans should help remove barriers to cycling and create a healthy environment in which people choose to cycle. To be achieved 'through supporting the delivery of a London-wide network of cycle routes, with new routes and improved infrastructure'. There is a limited scattering of meaningful 'active transport' aspiration in Merton's 2020 policies but not in a way that suggests a proper support of the Draft London Plan's improved cycle infrastructure. It is not enough for Merton's 2020 policies to relate to control of new building development, they must also look to upgrade the existing environment. Merton cannot currently be called welcoming to cyclists because not enough people find it a healthy environment in which to choose to cycle. LIP targets for modal shift are far from being met and Strategies to facilitate cycling recommended in reports by experts commissioned by Merton have not been followed.</p>	1/6/2019 10:12 PM
6	Only found out about the consultation this afternoon - the last day.	1/6/2019 6:01 PM
7	no	1/6/2019 4:36 PM
8	Badly thought through - nothing exciting planned for the next 20 years. No Vision.	1/6/2019 4:34 PM
9	I am disappointed by the limited communication from Merton Council about the public consultation on the Local Plan. I only heard about the consultation on the Local Plan through the Friends of Wimbledon Town Centre. Why is it that the Council has not widely communicated the consultation to local residents?	1/6/2019 2:50 PM
10	?	1/5/2019 8:20 PM

## Merton new Local Plan

---

11	Would like more time to be able to consider it properly. My children (who are 23) aren't aware of or engaged with it, but it will have a huge impact on them. Would be interested to know response rates from residents compared to electoral roll? Needs to be better publicity/engagement	1/5/2019 2:34 PM
12	Please ensure all members and residents of Merton are consulted at each step of the way.	1/5/2019 1:35 PM
13	A lot of work has gone into it, and in general its good but possibly not strong enough to resist unneighbourly developments. Could also do with more emphasis on safety and security and a lot more greening on all developments if Merton is to retain its status as a Leafy Borough.	1/5/2019 10:26 AM
14	The Council should adopt a "sustainable approach" by making sure the new local plan is short, precise and is a working evolving document - it certainly does not need to be 200 odd pages. There is no need for a forward by a lead Cllr. there is no need for photographs which do not relate to the policy - the local plan is not a marketing tool. The NPPF itself - simple, short, in plain English and easy to read i.e. no pictures, no colour etc. No local plan inspector has ever asked for photographs of various parts of the Local Authority to be added to the local plan document. The Council should practice what it preaches - be environmentally friendly and sustainable in the documents it publishes or prints.	1/3/2019 9:01 PM

---

## Merton new Local Plan

15

Response to the Local Plan for Wimbledon - Policy N3.6 I would like to outline below my objections and suggestions to the Council's Local Plan for Wimbledon. In Summary: I chose to move to Wimbledon because of the area's exceptional qualities as a place to live. The Local Plan's emphasis on transforming the town into a business hub is fundamentally misguided. The town centre is bounded by residential streets on all sides, making large scale redevelopment problematic. Residents have made it very clear, that they do not want Wimbledon town centre to become a "mini Croydon". The proposed scale and intensity of development are wholly inappropriate for Wimbledon town centre. They 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. Key objections and concerns: • I do not want Wimbledon to become another East Croydon and it should not be compared to or used as a template for future town planning. It's hardly something to aspire to, to turn Wimbledon into the high rise, concrete jungle, void of character that is East Croydon. There must be other town centres that have a good mix of both residential and business use, which still maintain the character and community feel of the area. I suggest the Council research further to explore other areas which have a successful mix of both and that would be a better comparison template for the future vision for Wimbledon. • I oppose construction of buildings of up to 18 floors, clearly out of keeping with the needs of the area. 18 storey buildings are definitely not mid-rise, as have been referred to in the Local Plan. • It is imperative to preserve what remains of the historic buildings in the town centre. • A greater amount of green, traffic-free space in the town centre would be beneficial. Re-directing traffic away or around certain parts of the Broadway would make it a more enjoyable pedestrianised zone. This road just gets busier and busier every year, clogged with traffic, particularly around the station. Building design and materials: To date, ugly and piecemeal building design, poorly overseen by the Council, has already created numerous blights on the town. I strongly support the adoption of a strict design quality regime, enforced by local laws, in order to raise the overall merit of new construction throughout Wimbledon, thus creating a more unified and visually pleasing town centre. i.e. using building materials sympathetic with the area and the area's history, such as London stock brick, Portland stone and natural materials in muted, neutral and earthy colours. Building Height Restrictions: I believe that the Local Plan should state unequivocally that new buildings in excess of 7-8 storeys are unlikely to receive planning approval because of their visual impact on the surrounding area, their incongruity with existing historic buildings and the increase in traffic congestion and pollution to which more intense development would inevitably lead. The Council should adopt a formula whereby it permits the lesser of a % increase in the height of the current building and a cap; and the formula should apply to buildings which are shown in the plan as intended to be more than 4 storeys high. For example, with a maximum 50% increase in height with a cap of 8 storeys, i.e.: • Any building on the plan proposed to be up to 4 storeys high stays as it is. • Any current 3 storey building, other than those included in the point above, could become 6 storeys, 4 could become 8, but 5 could only be 8 as well. Wimbledon Concert Hall: As part of the future town plan, I believe that the Council should 100% be backing the campaign for construction of a concert hall and arts centre in central Wimbledon (with provision for parking in a basement level beneath the hall) in order to strengthen the town's cultural offering. This would be a wonderful addition to the great culture and events we already have, in the form of the many local Theatres within the town (New Wimbledon Theatre, New Wimbledon Studio and the Polka Theatre). A world-class performance venue would be a huge asset and Wimbledon could indeed become known as a real cultural hub and "go to" place for the arts within London. It would also help to attract visitors and businesses to Wimbledon, increase the number of overnight stays and boost overall economic activity. Wimbledon Society's Blueprint: The Council should take note of the Wimbledon Society's own blueprint for the future of the town, which in very practical, thoughtful ways deals with many of the challenges that will face the town. Particularly the way the Society's vision successfully unites existing streets and new open spaces, especially near the station, while also erasing the unattractive red-brick and other synthetic material "boxes" authorised for construction in past decades. Heritage and Historic Buildings: Wimbledon's heritage and sense of community are highly valued by residents. Whilst the Local Plan acknowledges the town's rich history, it gives insufficient weight to residents' clearly expressed wish to preserve historic buildings and facades wherever possible. I hope the Council takes these comments on board from the community, and I look forward to seeing a revised Local Plan in the near future that takes into account the above suggestions and feedback.

1/3/2019 8:09 PM

16

As a parent of Joseph Hood children, I look forward to hearing more about your ideas for developing the Adult Education Site (RP9) and how it will benefit the school

1/1/2019 11:00 PM

## Merton new Local Plan

---

17	<p>The draft Local Plan seems to place being dementia and autism friendliness above general human health issues especially the value of improving cycling / walking provision. How about incorporating some holistic thinking, including prevention ? If your Plan encouraged people to get out of their cars and cycle / walk, it might reduce the need for resources required to deal with dementia and other health issues ! Look at Tooting Broadway market to see how, in the right circumstances and with the right imaginative thinking and support, a disadvantaged area can be helped to flourish. At a general level make more of the great green spaces we have, connect them with good paths and cycle ways, make more (emphasise) our key heritage points (Nelson, Liberty printworks, the Tennis, other ? etc etc).</p>	12/30/2018 10:57 PM
18	<p>Lack of page numbers in many (all?) documents page footers. Lack of "short" document name in page footers. All paragraphs should have paragraph numbers so that they can be referenced. All documents require version numbers (again in page footers too). Many of the maps are incorrectly orientated making them difficult to recognise.</p>	12/30/2018 6:22 PM
19	<p>Very hard to comment on areas I know nothing about!</p>	12/28/2018 6:08 PM
20	<p>There is a lot of information in the local plan to take in. The strategy is broad and wide and this presents the risk of interpretation and subjectivity. A lot can change with Cross rail and government budgets. Overall, the intent is okay but I think there is uncertainty around what Wimbledon will be (office - retail - social - or all of the above?). And like a lot of residents I object to tall or mid-rise buildings.</p>	12/27/2018 4:32 PM
21	<p>None</p>	12/25/2018 11:54 PM
22	<p>Being at the confluence of the Plan's constructs of what are Wimbledon, Raynes Park and Morden, see map at 1.21, it seems that Wimbledon Chase has been virtually forgotten. I found few references to Wimbledon Chase and the immediate area. I do wish you had stuck with using the ward boundary line which is the railway line. For this plan exercise, we are "Raynes Park" but my side of the bridge is Merton Park - and we are served by Merton Park's councillors. The other side of the bridge is Dundonald served by a different set of Councillors. I can see that Wimbledon Chase - Merton Park side - has been designated as a Neighbourhood Parade [7.6.18] but there is no change in the designated area from existing. On page 148 there is the following "Supporting environmental improvements and maintaining the day-to-day shopping and other services at Motspur Park and Wimbledon Chase"; At 3.4.14 - "Wimbledon Chase Neighbourhood Parade is served by a rail station, but could benefit from environmental improvements. Transport improvements for the Wimbledon Chase and Motspur Park areas have already been identified, including widening roads to ease traffic flow and provide better facilities for buses, pedestrians and cyclists, with planting to improve the quality of the environment". The physical impact of these two statements is not stated? But as regards the pavements, it is to be hoped that they remain as is. It is the Borough who installed a pinch point of the pedestrian crossing outside Tesco's. Surely it is not intended to incur costs removing it in order to widen the road - again? Most times of the day traffic flows freely through the Chase; there are build ups during the rush hour but in the main these are caused in the morning by the Hartfield Road level crossing backing traffic up as far as Wimbledon Chase! Closing off the exit from Dorset Road, near the crossing, would help. The pedestrian crossing in the Chase may cause some slowing in the opposite direction in the evenings but this could be improved somewhat by reconfiguring the frequency of the pedestrian crossing availability. As regards planning, I do hope the Planning Department looks favourably and speedily at proposals to redevelop the Coop site. The Coop is an important shopping outlet for local residents. Similarly the adjacent building - 290/298 Kingston Road - which is due to be changed from office to residential. But please no more fast food outlets in the Neighbourhood Parade area. We now have a fish and chip shop, a café, an Indian as well as Costa Coffee. The Raynes Park side of the bridge has numerous such outlets already.</p>	12/24/2018 11:29 AM

---

## Merton new Local Plan

---

23	<p>We would like the Local Plan to be a document that is fit for purpose for the development of the economy and new technologies for the period it covers. We would like to see a holistic approach to its implementation and overall no further losses to local jobs at the expense of housing. This fulfils our ambition to create a local community that is sustainable by reducing the reliance on commuting and use of cars. We would like to see air quality considered at all times - in planning considerations (particularly the impact of construction and the vehicles used as well as site policies in relation to air quality). We would like to see an emphasis on commercial waste - again within planning applications, setting out the processes for dealing with recyclables, general waste and food waste. We would like to see sustainable energy as a key consideration in planning and site development and redevelopment. Local procurement and the circular economy should also be key considerations for Council tenders and any developments. Under legal agreements we would like to see a local supply of labour as a standard agreement. Overall transport and other infrastructure should be a key consideration in order to achieve a successful and sustainable Plan.</p>	12/20/2018 12:17 PM
24	<p>Welcome the inclusion of South Wimbledon as a designated and separate local neighbourhood in its own right!</p>	12/14/2018 4:35 PM
25	<p>More frequent update will be nice.</p>	12/13/2018 12:21 PM
26	<p>There should be more consultation with the local community before a Local Plan like this is even devised-Forums to listen to local people who could help devise a plan rather than just being consulted. Merton is not such an attractive place to be a resident anymore-amenities that can't fulfil the needs of local people, poor waste management, drink culture at weekends and crime associated with this. More families moving from the area.</p>	12/12/2018 4:45 PM
27	<p>needs improvement and proper consultation</p>	12/12/2018 6:26 AM
28	<p>With regards South Wimbledon area, the street furniture is cluttered, excessive traffic signs, way too many 'to let' boards constantly nailed above the shops, and litter is a constant issue. I'd like to see more detail around how the south wimbledon/merton high street area can link the battles area streets effectively with the high path estate regeneration. That will be key in creating a vibrant 'town' feel to South Wimbledon. In the meantime please sort out the pedestrian crossing by hamilton road/merton high street - it has to be the most annoying crossing in London: come and watch the school kids cross unsafely every morning because these lights take ages, cancel the button, button deliberately doesn't always work, sequencing clearly designed to give absolute priority to traffic, and it even has a cycle path that runs across the waiting area.</p>	12/10/2018 3:04 PM

---