

[REDACTED]

From: R [REDACTED] Penty [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 January 2019 14:54
To: Future Merton
Subject: Wimbledon Master Plan proposals

Please see my comments on the proposed Masterplan for re-development of Wimbledon town centre.

1. I do not wish to see Wimbledon become another concrete jungle in the way Croydon has. I do not believe it is in the best interest of the community to become a commercial/business centre. Buildings of over 8 storeys for commercial and 4 storeys for residential uses cannot be justified anywhere in Wimbledon town centre - especially so close to predominantly residential areas. The town centre is already devoid of green spaces or even pollution-free places to sit out. Many concrete jungles in large cities pay lip service when it comes to planning open spaces and in reality they are tiny - if they exist at all, once development is complete. Buildings higher than those already in place should not be built.

I do not believe that investing in so more office space is realistic given the rapid changes happening in the business world.

2. I agree that even without Crossrail 2, the town centre and particularly the overcrowded station is in need of development. But I am concerned at the scale of the re-development plans in terms of traffic congestion and therefore pollution which is already very bad - (I already take a circuitous route around the town centre when I can to avoid the pollution, particularly in bad weather). Even without Crossrail 2 the redevelopment will be disruptive. With Wimbledon already re-developed it must mean that any subsequent Crossrail 2 expansion must be taken underground to avoid affecting the town centre. Like most vital developments, if pressing enough, the money will be found!

It is necessary to have more attractive buildings in the town centre (unlike some horrors already there) but re-development should not be at the expense of the historic buildings, facades or the erosion of the environment. They are a rich part of Wimbledon's community and history which make Wimbledon what it is.

3. Wimbledon would benefit from a new concert hall in all the ways listed. There is already strong cultural activity in the borough (an international music venue for one) and this would enhance opportunities for more. The building which has been suggested in plans already developed would serve to attract a wider audience and performers to our town. This needs to be complemented by pleasing and considered town centre development which will encourage them to return - not the clinical jungle we all fear.

4. I am appalled there hasn't been wider publication by the Council of these plans. I heard of it by word of mouth through a friend and others I have told had not heard of it. (I note that the proposed Sutton/Merton transport link received notification to individual households!) Something as major as this should not be allowed to be taken forward without every household in the Borough being formally told by the Council about the proposals in a succinct and clear way. Present and future residents will need to live with any changes for many generations to come and it is beholden on us to get this right now rather than 'nod' plans through, without them being given due consideration by everyone who will be affected.

Thank you for your consideration

R [REDACTED] Penty