

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] Richards [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 January 2019 20:38
To: Future Merton
Subject: Masterplan

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Masterplan for Wimbledon Town Centre. These are related to the following

1. Building heights

The implementation of mid-rise and high-rise building in Wimbledon Town Centre would be completely out of character with the surrounding residential skyline, both with those living in the neighbouring streets and further afield. The proposed scale and density is inappropriate for the Wimbledon character and exacerbate the already existing issues with traffic congestion, pollution (both noise and environmental) in and around the town centre.

The building heights proposed in the Masterplan – particularly around St George’s Road, Worple Road, the station and the area around the current YMCA – are significantly higher than existing buildings and represent much more than “a moderate increase in heights”.

In my opinion a maximum of 8 stories would be appropriate for the Wimbledon location

2. Metropolitan or Major centre?

In the Mayor of London’s draft London Plan, Wimbledon is defined as a “Major Centre”, with high commercial and residential growth potential.

But in the draft Masterplan, Merton Council states that it would like to see Wimbledon recognised as a “Metropolitan Centre”. I do not agree with this vision for the town centre. The centre is bound by residential streets on all sides thus making large scale redevelopment an issue.

3. Historic buildings

Whilst the Masterplan acknowledges the town’s rich history, I do not consider it gives insufficient weight to residents’ clearly expressed wish to preserve historic buildings and facades wherever possible.

6. New concert hall

A world-class performance venue would be a huge asset to the cultural life of Wimbledon. It would also help to attract visitors and businesses to Wimbledon, increase the number of overnight stays and boost overall economic activity. The Council should give the Concert Hall proposal more enthusiastic support and more prominence in the Masterplan to help draw people to come to and spend time in Wimbledon town centre.

I also consider that the Council should be more proactive in their communication of the Masterplan which will have a significant impact on not only the future of Wimbledon once complete, but also during the process of redevelopment to those existing residents of the town

Regards
[REDACTED] E Richards