

Sexton M

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To: Future Merton <Future.Merton@merton.gov.uk>

Subject: masterplan and local plan feedback

01 Local Plan feedback

Please, please could you include / do more about reducing the amount of front gardens becoming 'parking spaces' and if they have to change from a green front garden to a parking space then bring in local legislation that they should be permeable (preferably grassed) with plants and a maximum of one parking space. The driveways significantly reduce the amount of parking for those neighbours who keep front gardens, damage biodiversity, add to water run off, increase both the speed and amount of through traffic and rarely consider the visual impact on a whole road. Designs of any parking spaces (new or updated) should have to go to planning - as would any alteration to the front of a house.

02 Masterplan feedback

Feedback for Masterplan and Local Plan consultation for Wimbledon and Merton

Overall we are supportive of the vision of the masterplan which, if implemented, could green the town, develop high quality / imaginative architecture and provide more open space – this has to help improve the look and feel of Wimbledon Town Centre.

However, we are concerned about a number of areas:

- The impact of pushing traffic out from the town centre to the north of the station which is a densely populated urban area and should be protected from traffic / potential increase in air pollution (particularly the impact on Queens Road / Ashcombe Rd / Cromwell Rd / Haydon Park Road / Avondale Road / Trinity road are a major concern). Please don't send more polluting vehicles down here!
- If a secondary bridge is located north of the station, make this for walkers and cyclists and really push the green agenda.
- Heights / dominance of buildings in some areas – 10 to 12 stories will bring significant capacity but not dominate.
- Lack of cycling and walking strategy (or other non polluting modes)
- The 'grid' of the CBD / offices in St Georges Road – how will this be softened so it isn't sterile?
- If the sustainability route is chosen, lets create the greenest town centre in London, that is visually stimulating and innovative – not just a token gesture
- Polluting buses, can you tackle them on a borough-wide level?
- Can you bring in affordable commercial for start up shops / eateries / businesses

- The potential for fully pedestrianized zones – nearly always become ‘dead zones’. Can we have green, shared spaces – new ways of thinking rather than last century ‘pedestrian paradises’ that become anything but...

Some of the areas which are exciting include:

- new public spaces
- cultural hubs
- decking over the railway
- improving the leisure / play offer
- opening up the mews behind the Broadway (look forward to this happening asap)
- potential of new housing north of the station – please get retirement housing in there for us locals who will need it in 30 years! Mix with key workers, be a great place to live
- conserving the Victorian parades
- joining up different streets to make the town centre less linear
- and a new station

Our last request is to think of the town centre experience, be careful not to become bland, use architects / landscapers who create stimulating designs but are sensitive to the surrounding areas. Please make sure they use tactile / human / imaginative building aspirations allowing the town to thrive – keeping its heart but improving its position.