

**From:** T [redacted] Watson [redacted]  
**Sent:** 04 January 2019 23:28  
**To:** Future Merton  
**Subject:** Local Plan

Looking at this, there is a lot of language about needing 'growth' in Wimbledon and how there will be so much more contribution of 'design'. But living in Wimbledon for 30 years I have never seen any contribution of 'design' to newbuilds by Merton Council. I am not convinced that you will be able to demand or assess this.

Wimbledon has seemed to me a 'cash cow' to Merton because it is the wealthiest area with the Wimbledon Tennis competition being known worldwide and enough businesses and people happy to be here. Often, probably because of this other areas in Merton seem to be neglected! What's happened to the idea of improving Morden Town?

Does Wimbledon need to 'grow' or be changed from a major town centre to a Metropolitan Centre (like Croydon, Sutton, Kingston) by increasing commercial space - offices and retail? We read in the media that town centres are 'dying' due to increased shopping online and work at home so how would it help? Would it attract people? But is that necessary when Wimbledon is pretty fully employed? Wouldn't it just add to crowded pavements, traffic, transport and pollution? Wouldn't it just denigrate other areas in Merton or even attract people from abroad or other areas in UK which need to be improved? Local people would probably like more local businesses and independent shops but what we are offered is never what we desire....

Also the outline plan suggests that new development would be 'mid-rise' but the artist impressions I have seen in local media show buildings of up to 18 storeys high and much intensive development and change of road use. Wimbledon Town at present has much low level, historical, residential architecture but then some more modern mixed and piece-meal mid-level low quality architecture and I don't hear many local people say knocking the historical buildings down in favour of multi-storey development is such a good idea. High-rise buildings create wind tunnels and grey sunless areas.....Would the world-wide folk - tourists who have heard of Wimbledon and might visit think this would add to its attraction?

There has been talk which was liked by local residents of building a new world-class concert hall in Wimbledon and that might be a good idea but it has rumbled on for years with money spent on consultants and an architect competition but nothing decided by the Council and that is rather the way anything seems to go = basically Merton Council always has plans but they are never what the locals want and rarely is anything good done!

T Watson Wimbledon