

[REDACTED]

From: N Williams [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 January 2019 00:42
To: Future Merton
Subject: re: Local Plan for Merton

Vision:

As local residents who have lived in [REDACTED] SW19 for the last 35 years and brought up our children here, we would like to comment on the Local Plan for Wimbledon Town Centre:

We are certainly not against sensitive development of the town centre - after all, we have lived through the planning, abandoned promises and lost opportunities of the 'Speyhawk' era.

Wimbledon town centre needs development to cope with the current pressures, change in patterns of life of its inhabitants, workforce and visitors.

We would love to see a town centre that focuses on effective public transport (with pedestrianised zones) and a built environment that takes account of human scale that makes all it's people want to be there.

How Do We Get There?

The most obvious 'disrupter' lies in the future development (or not) of Crossrail 2. It is plain delusional to think the plans and timescale of achieving any desired outcome for the town can be independent of whether or not and on what timescale, this major infrastructure project takes place.

We are assuming that it will take place - and would much rather that when a sensible plan has evolved, that it be put into practice as quickly as possible, to enable ordinary life to continue as normal.

We would welcome the use of space above the current tracks of Wimbledon Station (and the building itself), freed-up by development of an expanded transport hub, to be used for an imaginative and pioneering office, retail and entertainment development, that would spread to the Broadway 'gyratory island' site, the Elys/Sainsburys/St. Georges Road site and extend to Waitrose on Alexandra Road, and the Wimbledon Theatre on the Broadway. However. to keep this within human scale, it would have be be restricted to no more than 8 stories above ground.

We would like to see the retail element of the development reflect the current trend to internet shopping, by encouraging some small to medium size outlets to provide a 'showcase/sampling type emporium' that acts as a gateway to later home delivery, enabling the shopper to leave the loaded and supermarket trolley and car behind and travel by public transport, bicycle or walk. To balance this, space would also need to be given to traditional market or 'pop-up' arenas to enable locals and office workers to satisfy short term shopping requirements, as well as providing small scale venues for relaxing and entertainment in the centre.

Once outside this central development zone, the permitted development must be restricted to a maximum equivalent of 5 stories above ground along the Broadway, Alexandra, Wimbledon Hill and Worple Road, with a gradual scaling back to 3 stories for any building bordering on the residential areas.

In Summary:

We do not need another Kingston or Croydon, we should look to protect and nurture the local resident population with an enhanced environment, whilst attracting an up-scale workforce with the same amenities, providing an expanded transport hub (assuming Crossrail 2), that encourages transient users of the public transport network - whilst restricting the use of private cars in the town centre.

PS: I could say more, but have only recently heard of this deadline for 'consultation' - the publicity for this new Plan has really not been worthy of its importance.

N [redacted] & A [redacted] Williams

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