

Comments on Local Plan - Wimbledon (Policy N3.6) Site Wi9

Dear Future Merton team

I am responding on behalf of the Wimbledon Community Association (WCA) with regards to site Wi9 (28, St Georges Road, Wimbledon, SW19 4DP).

The WCA is a local charity and was the previous occupant of the site at St Georges Road when it was run as a community centre.

The WCA sold its 1/3 interest to the Council in June 2013 after the building had fallen into disrepair and was subsequently demolished by the Council. The Council now has complete ownership of the site.

The new WCA trustees have subsequently invested the resources from the sale of its interest and are currently using the dividend to support a website (Wimblecomm - <https://wimbledoncommunity.org/>) promoting and supporting community facilities across Merton.

The Local Plan currently states (on page 36 in the 'Issues' section) that 'the community service has been relocated therefore a net loss of the facility has not resulted'. This is not strictly accurate.

Whilst we welcome (and have supported) the use of Merton Arts Space in Wimbledon Library this has not provided a full replacement for the loss of community space in central Wimbledon.

We believe that the community space in the original two storey building (representing around 1200 square metres) should be reprovided in central Wimbledon as part of the Local Plan and the value related to this asset should be applied appropriately. If this is not on the St Georges Road site, then somewhere else, ideally within a similar distance of Wimbledon Station.

If there is scope to bring in grant funding for any new community space we would be happy to support any such application.

We would ask you to make the necessary amendment to the Local Plan and would welcome the opportunity to have a further dialogue with the Council in due course with regards to the reprovision of the community space (D1 Use Class).

Chair of Trustees
Wimbledon Community Association

W: www.wimbledoncommunity.org <https://twitter.com/wimblecomm>