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**From:** M [Redacted] Agnew [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 04 January 2019 14:46  
**To:** Future Merton  
**Cc:** M [Redacted] White; R [Redacted] James  
**Subject:** Wimbledon Masterplan YMCA Response Final 19 Dec 18  
**Attachments:** YMCA MP Response Final 19 Dec 18.docx

Dear Sir/Madam

Please find the attached YMCA ST Paul's Group response to the Wimbledon Master Plan.

We are happy to discuss further if you require.

Kind Regards

M [Redacted] Agnew

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[Redacted]

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**Future Merton  
London Borough of Merton  
Civic Centre  
London Road  
Morden  
SM4 5DX**

By Email

4<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

**YMCA St Paul's Group: Masterplan response. December 2018**

The YMCA St Paul's Group is fully supportive of the consultation draft Future Wimbledon Masterplan.

The YMCA has been at the heart of the Wimbledon community since 1874. We continue to help young people achieve their potential and intend to do so for many years to come. YMCA Wimbledon was originally established in 1875 by Mr G.H. Lee and William Godsell so young men could meet after work to enjoy the "pleasures of wholesome friendship in a Christian atmosphere".

Since the grand opening by Her Majesty the Queen Mother in 1974, YMCA Wimbledon has housed and supported thousands of young people including tennis legends like Roger Taylor and Chuck McKinley, a former US No 1.

Back in 1974, the facilities at YMCA Wimbledon were considered modern with 110 comfortable single occupancy bedrooms. YMCA Wimbledon provided a welcoming, safe and caring environment and was home to people from the local area.

Today, YMCA Wimbledon provides a Health & Wellbeing centre with over 50 exercise classes a week. Children's activities are provided at Pod2, a brightly coloured multisensory soft play facility for children under eight. YMCA Wimbledon also provides room hire for the local community, with rooms suitable for small meetings and informal gatherings – perfect for community groups.

YMCA Wimbledon provides a home for young people from the local area who are referred from Merton Council and No Second Night Out. It houses up to 111 people, who can stay for up to two years. Residents receive support including training and life skills courses, volunteering, arts and drama projects, day trips and personal developing programmes and projects.

Providing these services makes YMCA Wimbledon a major local employer with over 50 people employed there.

However, the current YMCA Wimbledon building is no longer considered to be of architectural value and detracts from the environmental quality the area now aspires to. The Future Wimbledon Masterplan consultation identified the current YMCA Wimbledon building as being of poor and

unpopular design. The building is aging and struggles to meet the needs and aspirations of today's residents, with running costs now becoming prohibitive to the service that YMCA Wimbledon provides.

We see the Future Wimbledon Masterplan as a great opportunity to renew and improve our local service and better meet the housing needs of today's residents.

We fully support the Masterplan principle that a building of height is supported. We feel it is important that the Masterplan supports adequate building height and height flexibility that will enable and make financially viable the provision of a new and modern YMCA Wimbledon. Such a new facility will continue to serve the community and local young people as well as provide important employment to the area.

We feel that the Masterplan in its current form supports the provision of a modern and well designed YMCA Wimbledon that will complement and enhance the vibrancy of the local area and its community.

We would be very happy to discuss our support further with you if you require.

Best regards

**M White**  
**Senior Development Manager**