

Stage 3 Consultation on Merton Local Plan

Response from Friends of Wimbledon Town Centre

We would like to comment on the latest version of the new local plan. Our comments relate to Chapter 09. Wimbledon.

Page 264: The three overarching objectives are correct and appropriate.

Page 265-266: We regret that a character study specifically of Wimbledon Town Centre has not been undertaken.

WIMBLEDON: POLICY N9.1

Pages 267 and following: The activities listed (a to q) are admirable, but extremely **vague**. How will the council know whether or when success has been achieved in these policy areas?

Particular comments:

Page 267 (d) *“Supporting high quality architecture and design...”*
This is welcome, but the lack of detail means that it is unclear how the policy is to be implemented or the vision realised.

Page 267 (e) is ambiguous. *“Respecting views from Wimbledon Hill through the town centre and beyond, with taller developments set away from the historic core, located around the station, St George’s Road, Hartfield Road and Broadway East.”* Is it the historic core which is located around the station or the taller developments? More explanation is needed for this sentence to be comprehensible.

Page 268 (h) It would be helpful to mention here Wimbledon’s need for a new cultural/arts/community centre in the town centre.

Page 268 Please add to *“Surrounding neighbourhoods of Wimbledon”* explicit acknowledgement of the residential

character of residential streets in Trinity, Abbey, Hillside and Dundonald Wards, which are immediately adjacent to the commercial centre, and express a commitment to preserving the quality of residential community life by avoiding intrusive development.

Page 271, 9.1.7 *“We encourage dense mid-rise urban blocks...”*
What exactly is meant by “mid-rise”? We continue to regard this as an imprecise term and would prefer an explicit maximum building height of 22 metres.

Page 275, 9.1.31 This statement is welcome but, again, more detail is needed on how such protection will be achieved.

SITE ALLOCATIONS (Page 276 and following)

Site Wi2 Broadway car park. Page 281 states *“Development of the site could include taller buildings”*. As mentioned above, this is imprecise. We would prefer a specific maximum height of 22 metres. This comment applies to many of the other sites listed in this section.

Site Wi5 Hartfield Road car park. As mentioned above, there is no reference to ‘cultural’ or ‘concert hall’ or ‘arts centre’, only to ‘leisure’. A firm commitment to a cultural/arts/community centre on this site would be welcome.

Friends of Wimbledon Town Centre

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