From:

To: <u>Future Merton</u>

Subject: Removal of construction height limit in Merton

Date: 21 March 2024 15:03:25

Dear Merton Council

I learned today that the Merton planning inspector wants to remove limits on the height buildings can be constructed in the borough. No doubt this is to facilitate construction of further tower blocks in the vicinity of Britannia Point at Colliers Wood. If allowed, this proposal would lead to buildings even higher than Britannia Point, itself already a problematic building. I write to add my objection to this proposal in the strongest possible terms. The planning department will know perfectly well why I and many other residents of the area object - inappropriate development for the area, light issues, air flow around and between buildings, over crowding of people in relation to available infrastructure (schools, transport, doctors, dentists, etc). I am appalled at this proposal.

From my own observation of how the council operates, having attended remotely the charade of a democratic process of a planning committee meeting in the past, where there was no proper debate and the Labour majority unanimously approved the planning officer's recommendation to allow the development of a similarly excessive office building at St George's House in central Wimbledon, I have no confidence that the council will listen to residents and act in their best interests. Rather, it seems the reasoning and process of these decisions is kept as opaque as possible, perhaps deliberately to limit the amount of public opposition that could arise if people really knew what was going on. For example, I myself have only just heard about this proposal with a deadline for objecting to it of tomorrow. I hope you will listen this time.

Yours sincerely,