

From:
To: [Future Merton](#)
Subject: Merton's Local Plan
Date: 20 March 2024 20:12:47

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is

I have lived at this address with my husband for 38 years and have raised my family here. We have made lots of friends and are close to neighbours who we see regularly and enjoy the area with.

I have watched Center Court being built, the Town Hall being moved and many other major changes in the course of this time. The shops used to service local needs as well as attract other people into the center, we had butchers, florists, greengrocers but with the advent of more chains and a surplus of: estate agents, drinking, eating venues and a ridiculous number of gyms we feel that this very residential area is not being respected and priority is being given to the business economy. It needs pointing out that we just have one main high street running through the center and all the roads off it are residential with no high buildings in the center.

Although there have now been consultations where the wish of local residents has been made clear and no high buildings are wanted it now feels as if the might of developers with the potential of making money comes first. I feel that there is no wish to preserve, protect or enhance our community. This local plan does not raise the standards of planning across the whole Borough and is in danger of changing the character of a unique area for the worse by not considering the diverse population of residents.

Some of the points I think should be considered:

There is an increase in homeworking and less need for such vast building proposed to create office space

After covid it has become important to value open spaces and the need to address climate change. It would be best to consider the impact on the environment of new buildings as opposed to adjusting existing ones

Any developments dependent on Crossrail2 should be removed from the plan as this is now no longer viable given the present climate

The Local Plan should assign clearly defined planning and building targets to all developments and redevelopments which could then be strictly monitored and remedied if need be

Neighbourhood Planning should be mentioned in the draft Local Plan as it is very important for the residents to have a voice about choices which affect them

It is a priority to conserve local character and to pay attention to create a space visitors wish to come to. 'Greening' the town centre would certainly be in keeping with the residential feel. Attention should be paid to the local attractions such as Wimbledon Theatre and other spaces would enhance the experience of residents and visitors

How much hotel space do we need? I believe this should be questioned. I also believe this brings traffic and cars to the area as there is no way to force people to use public transport

Local people have repeatedly said they wish buildings to be limited in height to 22 m maximum and yet a height of 40 -49 metres is proposed. This would be imposing a density on local people which would completely change the nature of the area. The height should be considered from the point of view of taking daylight and creating a lack of privacy for nearby houses.

The centre should be seen not just a place to generate trips to Wimbledon but to make it a great place for the people who live and work there

We had been promised a Concert Hall but have yet to see this happen. This would bring a much needed centre for performing and creative arts and benefit the local economy

The tram stop terminus should continue to be located inside the station

St Georges car park needs to be made safe as none of the new proposals for hotels seem to include car parks, to simply say they will be car free is silly. What will happen is the cars will spill onto the neighbouring streets with free parking. This already occurs regularly in Compton Road each time the Library Art Space or St Marks has an event.

Kind regards