

From:
To: [Future Merton](#)
Cc:
Subject: Conservative Group Submission to Local Plan Consultation
Date: 21 March 2024 22:00:37

Dear Future Merton,

Merton Conservatives remain deeply concerned by the detail of Merton's Local Plan as this is a fundamentally flawed document that does not address the need for sustainable growth in the borough. This plan has been rushed through following the delayed realisation by the Labour administration that the Labour Mayor of London had increased the borough's housing target to such an extent that Merton was unable to demonstrate a five-year housing land supply. This meant that we have been unable to prevent predatory development applications such as the Redrow application on the Tesco's site on Burlington Road.

This Local Plan represents the further 'Croydonisation' of Merton by an out of touch Labour administration that has refused to listen to local residents and plan for their needs. After 14 years of Labour running the council the right homes for Merton residents have still not been delivered. We need a strong focus on building family homes and not tower blocks. Sadly, this plan will lead to further parts of the borough being concreted over by developers when we should be focusing on developing brownfield sites which are plentiful in Merton.

We oppose any building of towers in Wimbledon Town Centre, and no building should be taller than six storeys. That the definition of the town centre should be minimised and reduced from what is proposed, to respect the fact that residential areas directly abut the town centre location. The long-term policy to build another bridge over the railway (to the north of the Wimbledon Quarter, linking Queens Road with Alexandra Road), is to be reinstated. The removal of 'public open space via public realm improvement' should also be reinserted as the public in Wimbledon have long called for a better public open space in Wimbledon town centre.

We do not support the building or concreting over off MOL and such land should be protected for public use within the Local Plan. In particular we reject the suggested new policy N8.1 as it is unsound and wrong to tie it to the AELTC application.

We therefore call on the council to start listening to local residents. It's not too late to produce a Local Plan that both protects our borough and provides the homes that people need.

- Colliers Wood – any new building must be lower and stepped down significantly than the tallest existing building – Britania Point
- Morden – council and TfL land can be used for reasonable development, respecting the adjoining suburban nature of the low-level residential areas.
- Mitcham – is a local town centre and should not have dense development or overdevelopment. The Mitcham Gas Works site though brownfield should be

sympathetic in size and scale, and no higher than any other building in Mitcham (i.e. max limit of six storeys).

- South Wimbledon – enhance the public realm and not build any building that are taller than existing buildings, respecting the unique sub town centre location and heritage.

Kind regards,

Conservative Group Leader (Cannon Hill Ward)
London Borough of Merton

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