

The Directors of Merton Chamber of Commerce have reviewed the proposals set out by Plan Wimbledon and held a meeting with them on 19<sup>th</sup> May. I am responding on behalf of our Directors with the following comments:

Merton Chamber of Commerce values the work undertaken by Plan Wimbledon over the last 3 years and we support the concept and purpose of Neighbourhood Plans and the additional social capital they bring to the local area.

One of the areas we discussed with Plan Wimbledon was the designation of the area, the rationale for this is set out in their Plan. In summary, the designated area should be cohesive, that people and businesses should have a sense of belonging to it and recognize the importance of “20 minute neighbourhoods” as set out in Merton Council’s draft Local Plan.

It is our view that the proposed designated area is too large. The Chamber of Commerce has over 20 year’s experience working with businesses in the whole of Merton and recognises that there are very different characteristics between the localities embraced by the proposed boundary – examples are Wimbledon Village and broader area, Wimbledon Park, Wimbledon town centre, South Wimbledon, Wimbledon Chase, Plough Lane and Weir Road and Colliers Wood. We believe that many of these areas do not share a sense of cohesiveness, apart from being part of Merton borough.

We therefore are not able to support the proposal for the size of the designated area. We would be very happy to work with Plan Wimbledon and be a conduit for their communications in the future with Merton’s business community.

Signed on behalf of the Directors of Merton Chamber of Commerce.

Diana Sterck  
Chief Executive

Merton Chamber of Commerce