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Dear Future Merton

Here are my comments on the South Wimbledon section of the Merton Character Study.

In my view, there are two halves to South Wimbledon separated north and south by Merton High Street/Kingston Road.

The statement that South Wimbledon is 80% industrial areas, urban terraces and green spaces, is down to where the boundaries have been drawn. For me, South Wimbledon is much more on the northern side of Merton High Street/Kingston Road and I don't consider the industrial area or south of Merantun Way to be South Wimbledon. Clearly, this is a personal view of someone who has resided in the roads off the north side of Merton High Street and used South Wimbledon Station for 35 years.

I would extend the boundary slightly further north to include South Park Road and both north east to include some of the streets east of Haydons Road and north west to include the old Pelham School, now residential flats.

The photographs of the character of the area have been poorly chosen. The photo of the High Path Estate, already undergoing regeneration, shows the less attractive of the existing buildings on High Path Estate and the least in keeping with the area. A photo of the blocks of brick built flats bordering Morden Road or the arches under these buildings or the railings and gate to Morden Road could just as easily have been used. The regeneration of the High Path Estate is going to change the character of the frontage onto Merton High Street, Morden Road, High Path and Abbey Road. Much of it not in keeping with the character of the area. It is potentially too late to effect any change to the design of these future buildings. The photo of Elim Church / Merton Hall shows the new frontage which is smaller in area, and less in keeping with the district, than the older and more detailed and decorative frontage of the original building. There are many attractive buildings along Merton Road which have not been shown.

South Wimbledon junction does not consist of only the Underground Station. Each corner of that junction has a building of merit: the old Bank Building, the former pub (now tesco) and the attractive brick building on the fourth corner. Each of these buildings should be protected. The diagram in the Character Study shows this junction as re-examine character. I very strongly feel that these four corner buildings should be protected to retain the character of the junction. Wherever possible, I think repair would be a more sympathetic approach, keeping the character of the High Streets and close surrounds, making a human scale and kind local centre for shopping, dining etc.

I do not understand the explanation of corridor intensification:

"Opportunities to rethink and improve the environments along key routes through development that sensitively increases the scale, alongside public realm enhancement"

What is meant by rethink and improve, and by sensitively increase the scale?

I appreciate that finding ways of drawing a diagram to illustrate a variety of different items/groups of items is a great challenge. The diagram with the different colours is hard to understand as some of the colours/colour shades are very similar.