

Love Wimbledon BID

Helen Clark Bell Chief Executive

Dear Future Merton

Many thanks for the opportunity to respond to the Local Infrastructure Plan 3 consultation.

We are largely in agreement with the policies and objectives in the plan but have specific comments as detailed below.

LO4 Dockless bike schemes have previously proven to be very difficult to manage with bikes abandoned in the town blocking pavements and providing trip hazards to visually impaired as they are often dumped in the middle of the pavement. Any scheme needs to be better managed and regulated or provide docking network

LO5 Love Wimbledon support increased provision of cycle networks, however we suggest increasing provision along Queens Road to Haydon's Road (south of the train tracks). We also strongly recommend improving provision on Railway Path (between Little Waitrose and Metro Bank)– overcoming step access only by St George's Road car park and provide cycle rails on foot bridges across the railway tracks.

We would also recommend prioritising improved cycling parking provision at Wimbledon station. The racks are constantly full, leaving no capacity for those arriving outside of rush hour, resulting in bikes being locked to nearby railings and lampposts.

LO18 Love Wimbledon look forward to working with Merton Council on solutions for last mile delivery schemes for Wimbledon town centre

3.76 The Ultra Low Emission Zone is due to be extended to the South Circular in 2021 but this will not impact upon Merton. We would encourage the extension to include all Outer London Boroughs which would have an immediate impact on air quality. We are not aware of any plans currently to extend this to Merton.

LO20 Love Wimbledon support the anti-idling policy and look forward to working closely with the Council to introduce this and actively promote this in Wimbledon Town Centre

LO21 Love Wimbledon support the introduction of EV points, however they should not be limited to residential areas. Wimbledon town centre needs rapid charging bays in local authority car parks which in turn will help support the high street by providing these charging points.

LO23 Love Wimbledon support additional and replacement street trees. We will work with the council to nurture and maintain these trees in Wimbledon. We will also undertake bee friendly planting within the planting beds that we have adopted whilst also encouraging the planting of better hedging and vegetation that can positively impact upon air quality. This does not be to limited just to trees.

LO32 Rollout of electric or hydrogen buses will have the biggest improvement to air quality and noise in the town centre. We regularly lobby TfL to introduce these buses to Wimbledon – this needs to be a priority.

LO40 Wimbledon train station currently has capacity issues and the commuting environment is very poor. The train station needs to be refurbished or rebuilt to provide a better and safer travelling experience. Currently the station is not fit for purpose and regularly experiences over capacity issues. To encourage people to travel by train this experience needs to be improved

In addition –

3.2.1 St George's Road/Alexandra Road and Wimbledon Bridge junction is regularly blocked by through traffic resulting in rapid build up of congestion. Pedestrians are also at risk when the cars are stopped in the junction due to the diagonal crossing being blocked. This junction must be added to your list as one of your "signalised junctions to allow for people to cross in safety through dedicated crossing stages".

3.9.3 The LIP recognises the over-ranking at Wimbledon station but LO27 does not address this issue directly. We would look for stronger regulation of the rank to reduce the over-ranking impact on Alexandra Road and improve air quality by enforcement of idling in the rank.

We would be very happy to discuss any of these initiatives in more detail in an effort to improve air quality and reduce congestion on our roads and making the town centre experience a more pleasant environment for pedestrians.