

THE FUTURE OF OUR TOWN

**DO YOU WANT
WIMBLEDON TO BE
A MINI CROYDON?**



Monday 12 November

7.30pm at Merton Arts Space in Wimbledon library

Speakers include Paul McGarry, Head of FutureMerton, Merton Council

Merton Council has published its **Future Wimbledon Masterplan**, setting out its vision for the long-term development of Wimbledon Town Centre.

The Council's Masterplan describes Wimbledon as primarily a business centre and scarcely mentions the town as a place to live. It proposes significantly taller commercial buildings including an 18-storey development over the station and many other buildings reaching 10-16 storeys along Worple Road and the Broadway.

If this is not your vision for Wimbledon, you need to let the Council know by Friday 7 December. The back of this leaflet contains our thoughts on the Masterplan. You may wish to highlight some of these points.

To find out more, come to our public meeting on **Monday 12 November at 7.30 pm**, at **Merton Arts Space** in Wimbledon Library. (Space is limited and admission will be on a first-come, first served basis).

Join our mailing list at www.wimbledontowncentre.com, follow us on Facebook or Twitter @wimbledonfriend.

What is the Future Wimbledon Masterplan?

The Masterplan deals with key planning issues affecting everyone who lives or works in Wimbledon, or who travels through the town. These include the local economy, leisure and tourism activities, transport links, buildings, public spaces, entertainment, culture, shopping and suggested land use priorities for different parts of the town centre.

The Masterplan acknowledges that Crossrail 2, if implemented, will significantly affect many of its proposals. But it argues that the guiding principles on which it is based remain applicable whatever the outcome of Crossrail 2.

Our view

The Friends of Wimbledon Town Centre welcomes the Masterplan's stated purpose, to create a long-term vision and plan for the town centre for the next 10-20 years. Wimbledon has suffered from too much piecemeal and poor-quality development in the past and this is a chance to get it right in the future. We support the emphasis on better quality architecture and design, improved shopping and leisure facilities, and the aspiration for a greener, more attractive town centre.

We reject the Masterplan's vision of Wimbledon as mainly a business centre, rather than a vibrant mixed community.

In responding to the Council, you may wish to make the following points:

- **Business vs community balance:** Do we want Wimbledon to become "the premier business location in south west London"?
- **Impact on residents:** The Masterplan hardly mentions Wimbledon as a place to **live** and does not consider or even mention the impact of further commercial development on residents.
- **Tall buildings:** The Masterplan wants more tall buildings in the town-centre defined as "mid-rise", but these are up to 18 storeys which we do not consider "mid-rise". We think such intensive development will spoil the essential character of the town centre. And we want to keep Wimbledon's remaining historic buildings.
- **Design:** The Council says it wants better designed buildings, but its ability to influence design, fabric and cladding of new buildings is limited. The new guidance is too weak to change that.
- **Shopping:** The Masterplan suggests Wimbledon needs more "high street brands". Would you prefer to have more independent shops?
- **Concert Hall:** The Masterplan mentions the proposal for a new Concert Hall in Wimbledon. This is a great opportunity to bring a world-class performance venue to Wimbledon, which we support, but the Council will not allow the developer to add any parking which we think is wrong.

It's important that we all take part in the conversation about the future of Wimbledon Town Centre.

Do come to our public meeting on **Monday 12th November at 7.30 pm** in **Merton Arts Space** in **Wimbledon Library** to **find out more**.

Make your views known to the Council. Go to surveymonkey.co.uk/r/futurewimbledon and fill in the survey. Please do use the points in this leaflet. But don't delay – **the consultation closes on 7th December 2018**.