



4th December, 2017

**Dear Friends of Wimbledon Town Centre,**

## **Crossrail 2 update and opportunity to influence Merton Local Plan**

### **Crossrail 2 in the Budget**

In the Autumn Budget on 22 November, Chancellor Philip Hammond mentioned Crossrail 2, saying: “*We continue to work with TfL on the funding and financing of Crossrail 2*”. Subsequent media coverage suggests that further talks between the Government and TfL on funding the project are planned for December.

### **New Local Plan for Merton**

The London Borough of Merton has recently launched a consultation on a new Local Plan for the borough. This is at a very early stage but includes a Wimbledon-specific questionnaire.

We will use later emails to advise you of the other sections of the consultation, but in the meantime, we encourage Friends of Wimbledon Town Centre to go to the **Wimbledon section** and respond.

<https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/planning/local-plan/newlocalplan>

**Please follow the link and respond to the consultation by 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018.**

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In the paragraphs below, we mention some priorities that were expressed by the majority of over 700 respondents to the survey we commissioned in 2016 from Create Streets. [Click here to view the survey report, which is on our website News Archive \(in PDF Format\)](#).

These points may help you to respond to the consultation questions, as follows.

**Question 1:** first, you are invited to respond Yes or No to several broad statements about the prospective development of Wimbledon town centre. There is reference to the 'benefits of the potential investment of Crossrail 2'.

Second, there is an open text box where you can express your views in relation to the issues raised in the first part. This is a chance to mention any or all of the following that you may see as priorities:

- Bearing in mind the explicit intention of Crossrail 2 to recoup some of its investment in the new railway by building above stations along the line, and by building over the railway on pads, it can be argued that development proposals will need to conform to an amended, more rigorous planning framework in order to protect the character of Wimbledon
- Maintaining a variety of retail outlets, including independent shops
- Buildings to be limited in height (you may wish to specify a maximum height, e.g. the CIPD building at 141 The Broadway is 6 storeys in height) to protect the safe, community, small-town atmosphere and to avoid blocking out natural light. This is particularly important given the proximity of 2 or 3 storey residential property to Wimbledon town centre – which makes us different from, say, Croydon or Kingston
- Quality of building design and construction materials to be high
- Density of development should be limited to protect the closely adjacent residential areas
- Providing new cultural venues, including a new performance centre, should be a priority
- Green spaces and trees should be planned in as important elements
- Evening economy should be mixed and take account of the needs and quality of life of residents in streets adjacent and near to The Broadway

- Improvements to public highway in the town centre should take account of residents in nearby streets. We must avoid at all costs a Kingston-style racetrack!

**Question 2:** this question relates mainly to aspects of Wimbledon Village and Wimbledon Park, starting with some Yes or No statements and followed by an open text box. In the box, you may wish to state your view of the importance of protecting

- All conservation areas, including South Park Gardens
- All historic buildings, including those in the town centre, whether or not listed by Merton Council and/or Historic England.

**Question 3** asks for any other comments. There is an open text box presenting the opportunity to make any new points, or to emphasise what you have said already.

**Questions 4 to 12** collect data about respondents and ask if you would like to be contacted in the future about the consultation.

Reference is made to the 'masterplan' for Wimbledon. The headlines from the consultation events earlier this year seem promising, and if you haven't seen them, you may wish to follow this link:

<https://www2.merton.gov.uk/environment/regeneration/futurewimbledon.htm>

Thank you for taking the time to make your views known.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Gay Bennett-Powell**

**Secretary, Friends of Wimbledon Town Centre**

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*more funds for our campaigns when there are new proposals from CR2 and from Merton Council.  
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**Details are on our website - [Please click here for our website where you can click through to the PayPal page](#)**  
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2. **By sending a cheque made payable to [Friends of Wimbledon Town Centre Ltd](#) to:  
Friends of Wimbledon Town Centre, 72A Queen's Road, London SW19 8LR. Please let us have your name and address and email address so we can acknowledge your payment.**

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