

Future Merton  
London Borough of Merton  
Crown House  
MORDEN  
SM4 5DX



19 April 2019

Dear Sirs

## **PLAY WIMBLEDON – ST MARK’S PLACE CONSULTATION**

We are pleased to see that the Council are consulting on improvements to St Mark’s Place, following the report by Lugadero, but we have concerns above some of the detail.

St Mark’s Place cannot be totally pedestrianised. It is a public highway serving St Mark’s Church, the Alexandra pub and other businesses and they have rights of access. This is particularly important for St Mark’s Church because of the need for access by wedding processions and funeral corteges. There is no option for accessing the church car park from Alexandra Road as that would involve driving through Barclays Bank car park. Although the two car parks adjoin, there is a fixed barrier between them.

So any improvements must leave vehicle access at all times. Not just for one vehicle but enough space for two to pass. Imagine a funeral cortege unable to reach the church because a brewer’s dray is delivering to the Alexandra pub at the same time? Further planning must therefore include a vehicular movement diagram.

Accordingly, it would not be possible to plant new trees in the middle of the roadway as they would provide a blockage. Further trees are to be welcomed, but they should be planted to the side. They should also be planted in the ground so ensure the root system can grow: if they are planted on the ground there is a risk that they will not survive.

Any play area for children should have suitable soft matting around it.

Care must be taken in designing planters or benches around trees. In the past, the planter at the end of the street on the church’s land has been misused by drug addicts. If children are being encouraged to visit the play area, the Council must ensure that the immediate vicinity is safe.

Finally, we are not convinced of the need for fast food outlets. They would not enhance the architecture of the street and they would generate litter and food scraps. Instead, could not something be added to the rear wall of the Library to enhance that building in the same way as the “books” sculpture on the Compton Road side – such as a green wall?

Yours sincerely

Chris Goodair  
Chair, Wimbledon Society Planning & Environment Committee

Please send all correspondence by email to [chairmanpc@wimbledonsociety.org.uk](mailto:chairmanpc@wimbledonsociety.org.uk)