

From: C Barrell

Dear Sir/Madam,

With reference to: The Draft Sites and Policies Development Plan Document Part 2

Site Area 0.14ha Wimbledon Library/Marlborough Hall

Firstly I must state that I am an employee of the council working at Wimbledon Library but I make my comments as a library user and resident of Merton.

Wimbledon Library is an extremely attractive building with several points of interest both inside and out and its potential redevelopment would be a great loss to Wimbledon town centre.

The idea of finding a purchaser to buy and redevelop a public building whilst making money for themselves is an excellent one and a fine example of how it can work can be seen in the borough's Raynes Park Library. The old library was an ugly, supposedly temporary, pre-fab style structure and it was replaced by a brand new building with residential flats above - a success story for developer and Merton residents. However Wimbledon Library is a completely different case - it is one of the oldest buildings in Wimbledon town centre and is rather beautiful. Its red brick compliments the buildings opposite (the old post office and bank) and is an aesthetically pleasing sight especially when compared to other parts of the town which can appear bland and dull. It houses many interesting features that would be at risk of being lost or destroyed if redevelopment takes place:-

'Release' - a sculpture on the outside wall (Compton Road side)

Murals - painted by students of the Wimbledon School of Art (one of whom became reasonably well known in the art world) on the walls of what is the computer room.

War Memorial - an unusual piece as it commemorates the fallen of the Boer war

Radiators - unusual styles some very old, heavy types and others long, thin upright pipes. I am not an expert on radiators but have heard several people comment on them.

Fireplace - very pretty fireplace in the front area of library

Wimbledon Library is full of character and I fail to understand why anyone would consider tearing it down. It seems that everything old is to disappear, surely we should be seeking to preserve not destroy. The library has survived for 125 years through two world wars and its preservation should be our legacy to future generations.

Yours faithfully,

C Barrell