

Subject: FW: Blenheim Shopping Centre

AGENDA ITEM 5

From: Cllr Hannah Gray
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 1:17 PM
Subject: Blenheim Shopping Centre

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Dear Mr Horsman and Councillors

I am aware that this is coming to DC tomorrow and I am writing in my capacity as the Conservative Candidate for Beckenham and Penge. I've been closely following the development plans for the Blenheim Shopping Centre, and on the doorstep I have heard numerous concerns from residents in our community. It's evident that there's widespread unease about the proposed project.

Whilst I acknowledge the need for a modernised centre and additional housing in our area, the proposed development appears out of sync with the community. The sheer height and imposing nature of the project raises valid concerns. Furthermore, the insufficient provision for parking is likely to worsen existing congestion issues, affecting all residents in the vicinity.

It is clear that the current proposal falls short of complying with various policies too, particularly concerning height, scale, layout, architecture, and materials. I particularly note the concerns raised by GLA officers regarding the impact on the nearby conservation area.

I urge a reconsideration of the plans, with a focus on designing a project that sympathetically considers the surrounding area rather than merely meeting housing quotas. Our community's character and quality of life should be paramount in any development decision.

Councillor Hannah Gray