

## Osman, Louis

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**From:** Deborah Thackray [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 23 February 2022 16:45  
**To:** PlanningPolicy Wandsworth  
**Subject:** Comment on / Objection to Wandsworth Local Plan

I would like to register my objection to the allocation of BA1 Sainsbury's Car Park, Bedford Hill, SW12 as residential/commercial/mixed use.

The car park is currently effectively an open space in a very built up and increasingly busy area, with increasing traffic and no parks or play areas and few trees - and it lies in the heart of the local community. It is a breath of fresh air. Balham does not need additional commercial, cultural or community spaces - there are venues and shops that are not currently in use which can all be better made use of (reducing business rates for one or encouraging landlords to lower rent). Balham has increased footfall with more and more homes being built in the area, which is already densely populated, and residential housing would not either be appropriate; spaces in the local schools are over-subscribed and there is no space to build more schools or fit in more classrooms unless to the detriment of current school children. Of course, the council can squish in as many buildings as they wish into increasingly tiny areas - which we have already been seeing across the borough, with increasing numbers of cars due to increasing numbers of residents - and make money from this, with in effect zero accountability as any longer term resident is aware of, but it's not thoughtful, long-term planning and does not have the best interests of the community at heart. The increase in traffic is not acceptable given the already high levels of pollution in the centre of Balham. LTNs and cycle traffic ways have not been successful thus far. There needs to be more planning for the good of the community. Wandsworth would do well to emulate French examples and build a park - which could too have money-making cafes or entertainment within that land but this would not be the predominant use - over the carpark and house the carpark underground. If there is not enough money to do this currently, at least don't allocate the land for the proposed purposes, because in the future there may be the opportunity to do this, or there may be better uses that could be agreed in consultation with local residents. As soon as it is allocated as such then developers will grab this land - as the council will inevitably approve their plans subject to their meeting basic conditions - and it will never be gained back. There is a reason why the UK has such low levels of happiness, particularly among young people and children, and declining mental health, as well as health problems caused by pollution. Community and the long-term well-being of residents is not at the forefront of planning. Building over this currently open area (which is being used!) would neglect all of these considerations, and be purely a short-term money-making opportunity.

With kind regards,

Deborah Thackray  
[REDACTED]