

I can't help but feel that the original plan must now be obsolete in places. For the last few months the world, not just London, has been on lockdown, with the threat of similar to come, in the instance of Covid at any rate. We know that lockdown has changed many things, among them being the appetite of people to use public transport and to work at home. I think it is too early to say what direction this will lead us but I do feel that now is not a time to assume that the use of public transport and central offices will be the same as it has been historically.

From the behaviour of many people in the UK we know that lockdown has increased an appetite for gatherings that encourage a disregard for social distancing. Following the old regime of nightclubs and entertainment in small scale properties in London might be a dangerous precedent to set and an unattractive environment for potential new business.

Finally, proof if it were needed, that the plan is pretty obsolete is the use of wording such as "...Soho has amongst the worst air quality in London and vehicular traffic is a major generator of such pollution." [Policy 16: Car Free Residential Developments]. The Plan assumes that Soho will move forward based on the history of vehicles - electric vehicles have been available for a while now but the Plan does not seem to have heard of them. I believe that some small EVs will be necessary and that this should be planned for, not everyone is either disabled (and so allowed a car) or young and unencumbered enough to jog, walk, run to where they need to go. Using the Underground will not be an appealing option for many people and if the use of car clubs becomes so great (to be at the level where individuals use a car as often as if they owned one) will you put a curb on that too?

Please don't make the mistake of framing Soho in the old view, the world has changed and we need appropriate change in our cities to keep people safe.

I would like to be kept informed of the progress of the Plan.