



**MERTON PARK WARD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**  
**Scams & how to avoid them**  
**3RD SEPTEMBER 2019**  
**MINUTES**

**1: Welcome from Hubert Child, Chairman and Apologies for absence.**

**Present:** Councillors Edward Foley, Peter Southgate, & Dickie Wilkinson, Hubert Child, Bryan Anderson, Chris Stutt, Pauline Southgate, Fred Rayner, Stephen Mercer, Ian Garbett, Desé Child, Pauline Lightfoot.

**Apologies:** Greg Bryant, Ingrid Holtz, Krysia Williams, Graham Clark.

**2: Minutes of last meeting/matters arising**

The minutes of the June 2019 had been circulated and were signed at July 2019 AGM

**3. Scams & how to avoid them by Les Jackson of Scamsafe (& ex Met Police)**

LJ was in Met Police for over 30 years and retired in 2018. Prompted to do Scam Safe after meeting a lady who had £18,000 life savings stolen. Met Police had a collection for her because it was 2 weeks until her pension was paid. She is still frightened to go out of the house.

Video acting out various scams

**Flowers scam**

Delivery man hands over flowers and a parcel on the doorstep. He then asks for £2.47 postage and says that he can't take cash. Householder puts credit/debit card into his mobile card reader. This takes all the card details and pin number. Delivery man runs back to van to make cloned card and go on spending spree.

### **'Police call' from 'fraud department'**

Householder is called and asked if they have spent say, £15,000 in Harrods today. When they say no, the scammer gives them a reference number and tells them to immediately phone the number on the back of their card. If the householder uses the same phone within 10 minutes, then the scammer is still on the line. The scammer gets card number and PIN typed in over the phone. They then say that a courier will collect the old card and another courier will deliver a new card. Former happens and scammers spend on stolen card

### **ATM distraction scam**

2 scammers are near the ATM when a person takes out cash. One sees the PIN typed in as the other is closer, so person is shielding PIN from them. Just before the card comes out of the machine one scammer lifts up their foot, where a £10 note is, and asks the person at the machine if it is theirs? As the person is distracted the other scammer grabs the card. When the person turns back to the machine their cash has just come out. They may think that they have their card or just be confused as to where their card is. The scammers are running off with the card and PIN to use.

**Use door chain** all the time!

If a Police officer or gasman etc flash a Warrant or ID card – ask for their full name and phone the company to **check**, they are a valid employee.

**Loyalty cards** ask for lots of data e.g. date of birth – don't give it out!

Phone call 'Have **you had an accident recently**' are scammers

**Video doorbells** are a good idea – you can be 'in' when you are out and ask them to leave parcel with a neighbour.

**Security lights** are good

**Video camera** in house good.

**Call blocker** for all calls except your contacts are good

Look on internet for ideas for the type of kit available.

### **Contactless cards**

In close situations e.g. rush hour on the Tube, if you have contactless card, a scammer can take a small amount (up to £30) from your account, using a device in their rucksack. Most people probably would not notice £5 missing at the end of the month

and would not query it with the bank. Use a liner for your contactless cards so this can't happen.

**Purse bells** are a good idea

Attach **alarm key fobs** good

**Beware everyone** – Police arrested 2 Nuns collecting for charity who were scammers.

Selection of booklets and leaflets available.

#### **4. Neighbourhood Watch & Police Liaison Report including report on increase in residential burglaries**

Police on other (riot) duties tonight

#### **5. Councillors' Reports and Question Time**

##### **Cllr. Edward Foley**

- The **police report** 2 burglaries July and 5 burglaries in August  
Please close all doors and windows and do not leave tools out which could be stolen or used to force entry.  
Waffle Jacks were burgled by man seen on CCTV and when the Police circulated it, he was caught and sentenced.  
Resident in Church Lane saw intruders in his house on CCTV and called Police. One burglar was caught and 2 escaped. EF might have CCTV of the others that day. Police helicopter and dogs were used.  
**Weapons search in Kendor Gardens** resulted in a knife being found.  
**Smart Water** – can get bottles free from Police and put it on your valuable items. It has to be registered to you. It can be traced abroad.  
**Free burglary prevention advice from Police – please make an appointment.**
- **Exam results: A – Levels** were very good over 75% achieved A\*– C which is a little above the national average.  
RR6 57% A\*-B  
86% A\*-C
- **GCSEs** Grades 9 to 4 are passes  
**Merton** 72.8% 9-4 Maths & English  
**Rutlish** 74% 9-4 Maths & English  
**Ricards** 76% 9-4 Maths & English ( up 11% on last year)

**Deputy Mayor duties.**

**Mediterranean evening** in Leopold Road £30 for meal – proceeds to Mayor's charities

**Quiz Night** 12<sup>th</sup> October

**Cricket match** organised by EF vs Mitcham Cricket club – came 2<sup>nd</sup>!

'Meet the brewery' evening at Hand in Hand pub on 25<sup>th</sup> September £5

October 6<sup>th</sup> Sliver Sunday – tea & cake at the Wimbledon Club

Imber Court – local award ceremony – very moving event detailing the heroic actions preventing suicide, CPR and rescuing people from burning buildings.

**Cllr. Dickie Wilkinson**

Consultation on annual Safer Merton survey end 18<sup>th</sup> October – see website

Green initiative – a 30-day challenge to do one extra green action a day – see ideas on the website

DW provided a handout of events happening in the next few weeks.

On Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October we will celebrate 30 years of Independents at Old Ruts Sports Club in Poplar Road

**Cllr. Peter Southgate**

**Local Planning** decision on ground floor flat **237 Kingston Road** rejected the extension for the 4<sup>th</sup> time!

Behind **163A Mostyn Road** is a pocket of land between the houses and the railway line.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> application permission was granted for a 1-person bungalow.

New application **92 Kenley Road** for a small house in the back garden which fronts Wessex Avenue similar to 116 Kenley Road.

Query re the door in a storage room at the back of a house **in Daybrook Road.**

**State of the Union of the Council** meeting. We were given a quota of 1328 dwellings to build a year. The Local Plan held the quota at 411 as previously achieved but we have been required to resubmit with plans for 600 units.

Council tax will increase by amount that the Government will permit. The Chief Executive will issue a funding statement tomorrow. Council is short of cash and will be encouraging communities to do more for themselves.

Increase in parking charges called in for scrutiny. PS in chair and upheld the Lib Dem challenge that disabled road users had not been considered. Another objection was rejected.

**Winter closure of footpath through Rutlish school** – proposed it is locked 8am Monday to 6pm Friday. 23 responses to consultation and no one was in favour. School says that there are people on site until 7pm and it is not worth opening gates overnight.  
**Q** Large vehicles cannot turn around in Watery Lane now that gates in front of the Manor House are closed.

**Flu jab** available from 14<sup>th</sup> September at Nelson Health Centre.

**Liberty House** (assisted living care home next to the Nelson) has an open afternoon on 5<sup>th</sup> September 12.00-3.00 with cream tea.

**Q** Council short of cash – has Chief Executive had a pay rise or bonus?

**A** Not that PS aware of.

**Need more volunteers** at Citizens Advice Bureau – especially solicitors.

Council asking Government for permission to spend Reserves if not given more money for adult social care.

**Q** Storage sheds in front gardens -covered by Article 4 direction in Conservation areas?

**A** Bin storage is OK but must not be materially bigger than bins.

**Q** Do you need permission for any storage in the front garden?

**A** Yes if materially bigger than the bins

**Q** If I apply for permission for my existing expensive shed and am refused will I have to remove it or what will happen?

**A** Not very much. Up to 50% of garden area at back of house can be built on. Council can issue fines and knock down large structure, but this process will take years.

**Q** Paid a lot for my shed and letter from Council says I must remove it in 21 days

**A** You can get a certificate of lawful development if you don't actually need permission. This is useful when you come to sell a property.

**DW** will add a link on the website where the rules & regulations are explained.

**Q** Music Festival in Morden Park – 4 stabbings and the septic tanks were not removed – will it be banned?

**A** Borough Commander coming to Council to answer questions in particular as to whether it will be licenced in the future.

**6.0 Questions, Updates and Any other business None**

**Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019 7pm at Old Rutlishians Club House Poplar Road to celebrate 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**See [www.mertonpark.org.uk](http://www.mertonpark.org.uk) for Merton Park News and to sign up for e-mail alerts.**