



MERTON PARK WARD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION MINUTES 4TH FEBRUARY 2020 MERTON PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

1.0 Welcome from Hubert Child, Chairman

Present: Hubert Child, Bryan Anderson, Dese Child, Peter Southgate, Pauline Southgate, Edward Foley, Dickie Wilkinson, Ian Garbett, Pauline Lightfoot, Chris Stutt, David Merriman, Jolanta Novak, Stephen Mercer, Greg Bryant, Ingrid Holtz

Apologies Ingrid for late arrival

2.0 Minutes of last meeting/matters arising

The minutes of 3rd December were agreed and signed

3.0 Neighbourhood Watch & Police Liaison Report

PC Weatherhead apologised for not attending previous meetings due to pressure of work.

Crime Statistics for January 2020 - 11 burglaries including thefts from sheds and attempted burglaries. Vehicles have been stolen and houses have been targeted to steal cars. Thefts from cars have spiked too.

In November a prolific burglar was caught by the team. He was wanted for 5 break ins and for 5-6 in Croydon area and more in Surrey. He will go to the Crown Court in May. Last week there was an attempted theft from a stationer in Morden – he was caught, and money recovered.

Speed watch & weapons sweeps – want helpers from public – details on social media

Beggars in Morden being tackled

Smart water available for everyone now – if interested please phone Police. This is used to mark valuable property so that if stolen and recovered, it can be returned to owners.

Q Congratulations on catching robber – why was it only attempted robbery when he stole the money?

A Victim got the money back from the robber who was armed with a knife

Q What is Smart Water?

A See above. Stickers can be put in front windows to deter burglars.

Q Speed watch – if people are going at more than 20mph will they be caught?

A Yes – area covered will be from Aylward Road to Dorset Road.

4.0 The Climate Emergency Speaker Katie Halter LBM

KH is one of 2 Officers at LBM who are developing an action plan for tackling climate change. The evidence is being assembled, together with a consultation and a plan will be drawn up. At the July Council meeting a climate emergency was declared and the LBM will work toward being carbon neutral by 2050 and the Council buildings will be carbon neutral by 2030. Consultants are reviewing the evidence and Committees have been set up.

Q Sustainable Merton AGM 26th February – list of things to help that we can do?

A The evidence shows that about 700,000 tons of CO₂ - the greenhouse gas - is produced by Merton residents. $\frac{3}{4}$ comes from heating our homes and $\frac{1}{4}$ is car use. This does not include all emissions like flights etc taken by Merton residents, food purchased from abroad etc.

Q CO₂ – how to measure because different airlines rate same flights in different ways?

A Using Central Government figures & Department of Transport figures broken down by area.

Q There is a pathway to being carbon neutral by 2050 ?

A Decarbonising homes by insulating better and switching to electric heating, solar power. No petrol or diesel cars, buying local food and produce, using less packaging, eating less meat, recycling more, using less products associated with fossil fuel; use, windfarms, green spaces – tree planting & sustainability – drainage etc

Survey results

Consultation in September 2019 had 600 respondents with 50 organisations and lots of view. There is a positive response to reducing greenhouse gases and people felt personally responsible. Businesses felt that they could get on with decreasing greenhouse gases. Want more community involvement & lobbying & funding & Council to lead by example

Q 12.5 % reduction in green house gases a year – what happens if miss target?

A The next steps are 143 actions suggested & collected. Aim to prioritise actions to give best impact can achieve if put a plan together with the greenhouse gas survey. Actions to meet target but not all are funded

Q Any funds from Central Government?

A Not sure. New PM & no word from him yet- except no petrol/diesel cars to be sold from 2040 now reduced to 2035

Q Planting trees OK but how to achieve as can be bad for conservation. Heathland is a valuable habitat. If more trees, there will be less land for food.

A Want to plant more. Mayor produced ambitious annual target. This will offset only 0.05% of greenhouse gas emissions with 23% of green cover in the Borough.

Q Wimbledon Chase tree planting transformation is great. The 'Merton Rule' led the way in the UDP – will policy be published & specific targets to be met?

A Look at policies & see if need to go further. London policy – all major developments to be carbon neutral but not necessarily on site! Zero carbon houses vs affordable housing targets.

Q Last peak awareness in climate change 20 years ago, then a decrease but now an increase. If we have to build lots of houses cost becomes important.

A 5% new build to 2050 + big effort to decarbonise existing homes

Q In Asia & Africa air pollution is so bad so what we do is a drop in the ocean.

A If count indirect emissions – we can only control here.

Q CO2 is particulate/pollutant neutral - carbon monoxide etc?

A Difference in greenhouse gasses or air pollution – action plan is for air quality – if we don't drive the air is better and less greenhouse gases carbon monoxide is poisonous.

Q Lead by example – but Council workers drive to work!

A Staff travel plan & services being formed. We recognise issue that some people drive to work because they have to drive around for their job. Green & healthy guardian groups being set up.

Q Is air pollution considered important?

A Policies formulated in relation to air quality and it is considered in relation to planning applications.

Q The number of people at the meeting (99) shows how concerned we are - tell us how we can decrease our emissions in our homes?

5.0 Presentation on Boundary Commission's Proposals

There have been 35 letters so far. Councillor Southgate slides about changes. Please write in by 2nd March.

If the changes, go ahead we will have a smaller Ward with only 2 Councillors.

The BC says we must not seek electoral advantage so we must emphasise the strength of community that exists in Merton Park. Please write and you can also send in photos, plus copy to MPWRA@mertonpark.org

Q Morden development so our numbers will go up?

A Only small allowances in Morden as based on 2025 projection when flats yet to be built.

Q Could the Ward be brought up to 3 councillor strength by coming into line with the Conservation areas?

A We have the John Innes (Merton Park) Conservation Area in our Ward. The John Innes (Wilton Crescent) Conservation Area is currently in Dundonald Ward but as this is proposed to be abolished it is an ideal opportunity to bring the whole John Innes Estate into Merton Park Ward. The JI (Wilton Crescent) CA includes Wilton Crescent, Wilton Grove Grove, Mayfield Road, Kingswood Road & Sherwood Road. Although not in the Conservation Area, the area between Henfield Road and Avebury Road is part of the John Innes Estate, i.e. built on his land. This includes Rayleigh Road, Cliveden Road and part of Merton Hall Road.

To bring us up to 3 councillor strength we also need the east side of Merton Hall Road from Avebury Road to Dundonald Road + Fairlawn Road both of which border Dundonald Recreation Ground which was gifted by John Innes.

This plan would bring the whole of the Merton Hall Road Conservation Area into our Ward. The Ward already has Quintin, Richmond and Chatsworth Avenues already in it. These form Wimbledon Chase Conservation area.

On the Council analysis social cohesion capital measure – we are top rated Ward! This is measured by 50 indicators like the Neighbourhood survey, voting, volunteering etc. The village has the lowest cohesion rating!

6.0 Councillors Reports

Councillor Peter Southgate

Wimbledon Chase station redevelopment proposals - second **exhibition 11th February 4.30-8.00pm at Whatley Avenue school**. It is a long way from a planning application being submitted. There would be a 9-storey block with 64 flats. There is no step free access to the station, but a lift could be put in, but this would not be allowed because the station is not manned.

Q Could the block lift serve the station?

£500m Government pledge for 1 new hospital for our area at St Helier, Epsom or Sutton sites. Could build in 4 years on a new site or longer if on the St Helier site. Council says St Helier please – see leaflet. Motion tomorrow.

Q Andrew Murray said that there are not enough Consultants at St Helier but there are at Sutton – why?

Q Planning at the White Hart pub?

A Nextdoor website said that site was up for sale for £7m. Plans had been drawn up by the Marcus Beal practice.

Q What is affordable housing?

A 'Affordable at social rent' typically 40% of commercial rent or part rent/part buy. In GB the ave house price is £215,000 but there is nothing much under £500,000 in London. Teachers move out as they get more experienced.

32 Poplar Road – had an e mail & went to see it and found house flattened. Building control saw it and said it was unsafe, so it was taken down. There is no VAT on a new build.

Councillor Dickie Wilkinson

Councillor Edward Foley

Tonight's **meeting will be videoed and put on the website** for people who are unable to attend the meeting to see.

Bryan Anderson – Friends of Wimbledon Town Centre have received the **Master Plan for Wimbledon** but say that the consultation on the previous version has largely been ignored. See our website

Graham Clark

Thames Water are replacing the water main in Mostyn Road and there will be contraflows in place for 20 weeks

7.0 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 3rd March at Merton Park Primary school. Topic Parking

See www.mertonpark.org.uk for Merton Park News and to sign up for e-mail alerts.