



MERTON PARK WARD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION MINUTES 3RD MARCH 2020 MERTON PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

1.0 Welcome from Hubert Child, Chairman

Present: Hubert Child, Bryan Anderson, Dese Child, Peter Southgate, Pauline Southgate, Dickie Wilkinson, Ian Garbett, Pauline Lightfoot, Chris Stutt, David Merriman, Stephen Mercer, Graham Clark, Fred Rayner

Apologies Edward Foley, Ingrid Holtz, Jolanta Novak, Krysia Williams, Greg Bryant, Janet Bamber

2.0 Minutes of last meeting/matters arising

The minutes of 4th February were agreed and signed

3.0 Parking in Merton Speaker Ben Stephens LBM Parking Services

There is a new system and an increase in parking charges in the Borough. Work includes checking for correct Blue Badge use, requests for parking permits and enforcing anti idling restrictions and checking air quality. There are about 200,00-250,00 interactions a year with parking fines (PCNs), Blue Badge check and appeals and correspondence. There are 20,000 residents parking permits to process, enforcement of no left/no right turns and boxed junction infringements, resident trader and school permits.

Civil Enforcements Officers (CEOs) patrol the streets. Central London is in Band A for the highest parking charges and we are currently in Band B but hope to move to Band A. Council have been given authority to consult on going to Band A for parking charges. Emission based levy -diesel surcharge based on how bad the emissions are.

Q Permits for visitors?

A Can buy these using a smart phone

Q Scratch card permits still valid?

A Yes. These valid for a few years. They are more expensive because we don't know what type of vehicle they are for – less polluting vehicles are charged less.

Q Ultra low emission zone in central London using charging model for parking fees only. What about lorries and fire engines etc which are more polluting than quite a lot of cars together. Better to use old cars than scrap them and buy new cars?

A Nudging people towards buying better cars when buying new ones, not forcing them to buy new cars now.

Q I have a 15-year-old car and do 2,000 miles a year – why buy a new car?

A People have paved over gardens at a cost of £3,000 to save to save buying a parking permit for £400 a year. The Consultation will give us your views.

CEOs are also trained to look for people/ terrorists with knives etc while on the streets.

Q Grasmere Road is Y shaped at end and no one parks there?

A A colleague will answer this later

Permit system charges in 2019 aim to address air quality and congestion. Prices have gone up because they have not been reviewed in the last 10 years. There is a tiered pricing structure. Those closer to public transport pay more for permits. As from 14th January there is virtual parking using Ringo app. It is a user-friendly way to get a parking permit or scratch card. Instant parking – no need to wait 2 weeks for a permit to be posted out. Users need to register with Ringo and pass the residency check and pay for the permit.

Q Not everyone has a computer or smart phone.

A Please phone us.

Q If I have already proved proof of address will I need to do so again?

A Yes – new system so needs up to date proof of residency and vehicle ownership. Can manage account to add a courtesy car, cancel permit or order scratch cards.

Half and full day permits can be purchased as scratch cards and there is a new type called a 'resident visitor'. The Ringo app also allows for a visitor's car registration to be entered and a ticket paid for.

This also applies when using a laptop to pay for parking.

Q Bought scratch cards last year are they valid?

A Yes there is no expiry date, but they may be phased out in a few years so check then.

Manager of CEO's Sue

We have Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) in the Borough and there are 1285 roads of which 538 are in Controlled Parking Zones (CPZ). Of the 169 Blue Badges issued 5 were recalled as no longer valid.

CEO Peter

We work 2 shifts 6.45am to 5pm and 12.45pm to 11pm. Equipment used includes ticket printer, smart phone camera -which is a safety feature against abuse. Given any zones to work in and can do the roads in any order. Timing can mean that some people park for 5 minutes and get a ticket and other can park for much longer and avoid a ticket. There is banter/abuse and violence on the job dealing with the public.

Q Cars are wider than the marked parking bays – will we be given a ticket if car is over the line?

A No we don't enforce that

Q Lorries and builders park everywhere and ignore restrictions. Verges are destroyed. It is a big deal for residents, but the builders get away with it. We can't phone the Council every day.

A Everyone is treated the same. Please let us know.

4.0 Wimbledon's Neighbourhood Plan – Extent of Area to be included?

The Group is established with the key objective to form an authorised Neighbourhood Forum which would prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for the Wimbledon Area to promote the environmental, social and economic well-being of the Area, taking into account the interests of all who use Wimbledon, including both business and residents.

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

It is a statement of planning policy e.g. more housing? Where? What sort? What sort of controls over development e.g. heights, issues related to climate change? Policy vis-a-vis green space in so far as it affects planning applications (really permits to develop) and much more. Has to take impact on infrastructure e.g. schooling, roads/rail into account.

It is prepared by a Neighbourhood Forum with financial and technical help from government through extensive consultation of those affected i.e. living/working in the area including businesses

It is subject to a referendum of all electors in the area – one reason why the area has to be precisely defined.

Benefits

Developed by Neighbourhood – it is what people want. The final word is that of the people not the Council. Subject to referendum cannot be imposed. Contrast with Council which has said that this is the final consultation- the next document will be the final word – and it is theirs.

We specifically wanted to come here tonight to begin consultation with you on the area of Merton Park to be included in the plan area and hope we can do that before the next meeting.

Q Can it over-ride the Government?

A No – it cannot override National Planning Policy or the London Plan.

It can override Merton Local Plan, Wimbledon Plan - and the Morden Plan. if there was a Morden Neighbourhood Plan.

Neighbourhood Plan constrains Council. There is no physical overlap of Wimbledon and Morden Plans.

Q Edges of Neighbourhood Plan that is not in other plans?

A Area can be what you want!

Q Picture on front of planning document at the meeting is very benign – no tall buildings pictured – in reality tower blocks are proposed for Wimbledon town centre. Consultation ends 6th March.

A Yes that is correct – not much to beautify Wimbledon town centre.

Q if Cross rail built then most of Centre Court goes?

A Re-evaluating this project so don't know what might happen

5.0 100 Club Draw

3rd prize £20 num Rev Graham Derry

2nd prize £30 num 99 John Sargeant

1st prize £50 num 35 Mary Lotteram

6.0 Boundary Commission review

Nearly 200 letters have been written to the Boundary Commission objecting to the proposed reduction of the Ward to a smaller area with 2 Councillors instead of 3. An error was spotted by a member in the statistic which were provided so the Consultation period has been extended to 16th March. Figures in the Residents Association submission are correct, and Peter & Pauline have done an enormous amount of work on the leaflets.

Q Can we see a copy of the Associations submission please?

A Yes this is available on the website after the deadline.

7.0 Councillors Reports

Councillor Peter Southgate

Thank you, Hubert, for the hard work on the **Boundary Commission proposals** which trashed the John Innes and Ward boundaries. We really need 3 Independent Residents councillors to function as a party.

Parking fines – the justification for the increase is that the number of fines has been increasing so they are not so much of a deterrent

2015-6	54,700 fines
2017-8	66,470 fines
2018-9	68,573 fines

£65 if pay promptly, more if delay payment.

72% of parking tickets are to people who live outside the Borough.

Q How much is generated?

A Not sure

Planning We were given a target by the Government to build 411 homes a year and this has been increased to 918.

Tesco site housing estate in Burlington Road has 456 homes planned for it. We need to build 2 of these estates a year to meet the target, for each of the next 10 years! They will be 7-15 floors high and have 151 affordable homes.

Wimbledon Chase station – 11th February exhibition attended by PS but no Planning application has been submitted as yet.

South Wimbledon junction is back to normal – the roadworks were finished 5 weeks ahead of schedule.

Corona virus briefing yesterday. 1 case at Wimbledon College which has been shut for 2 weeks – staff were in contact with case, so they need to self-isolate and hence the school needs to close.

Containment phase – update at 2pm each day and on Government website. 80% of people who catch the virus will be OK with a dry cough and fever but if breathing problems dial 111.

Councillor Dickie Wilkinson

Last meeting was 1 day before full Council meeting and there was a motion on the **St Helier hospital proposals**. The Consultation about which hospitals should provide which services closes 6th April.

Conservative motion 'Support building of a new hospital '
Labour – will take money if St Helier the new hospital site – Independents supported this.

Planning applications – on-line comments removed because they cannot redact all the personal information. However, one can ask for the comments and they will be redacted and given out! Conservatives asked for the information to be put back on-line and the Independents supported this, but the motion failed.

Q Other Councils put information on-line so why not Merton?

A Yes Wandsworth do so!

Police station – abstained on this motion as grandstanding about this

Budget £11m worth of savings needed

Councillor Edward Foley Apologies as ill and not able to film meeting. Last one was on YouTube and Residents Association website

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8.0 Updates and Any Other Business

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 7th April at Poplar Primary school.

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