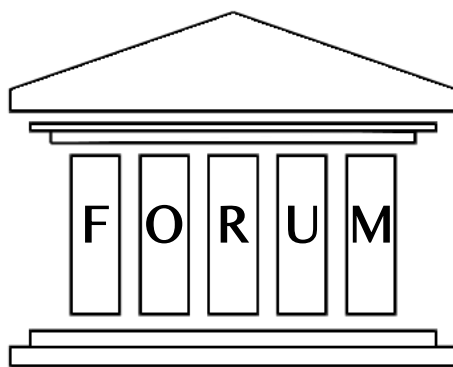


Merton Park Ward Residents' Association

for the residents of: Morden | Merton Park | Wimbledon Chase



Spring 2021

Issue 66



Daffodils feature across FORUM, with photos of daffodils in Kendor Gardens planted by Fred and Megan Rayner with the help of the Community Payback Team and funded by your councillors from their Ward Allocation Fund. Please let us know if there are other places in Merton Park where you would like to see spring bulbs planted.

Inside this Issue:

- No LTN for Merton Park
 - New Crossing for Dorset Road
 - Police Priorities Update
 - Thank You to Margaret Garrett
 - The Journey of an Idea through Council
- + MPWRA future meeting dates for your diary

Letter from the Chairman:

Welcome to FORUM, delivered to every door in the Ward twice a year. This is our means of keeping MPWRA and our Independent residents' councillors in touch with those not receiving email alerts or who cannot get to our monthly meetings (currently by Zoom).

This is the first edition for a long time where distribution has not been organised by Margaret Garrett. After many years recruiting and organising our wonderful team of deliverers she feels it is time to pass on the baton. Our tribute to her for her superb service can be found further on in this edition.

Hopefully you enjoy reading FORUM and might consider taking on Margaret's role. It's likely to be a sociable task as you would be in touch with the team and our committee. Joining the committee is not essential to the role, but we are likely to have some committee vacancies at our AGM in the Summer.

If you would like to help us with this, or other talents, do please get in touch with me and to join our current monthly Zoom meetings, receive email alerts or join MPWRA please see back page.

Hubert Child - Chairman Tel 020 8540 3087/email hubertchild@hotmail.co.uk

Contact your local Independent Ward Councillors (pictured left -right)

Cllr. Peter Southgate - Leader MPWIR

peter.southgate@merton.gov.uk / 020 8542 2053

Cllr. Edward Foley

edward.foley@merton.gov.uk / 020 8542 5824

Cllr. Dickie Wilkinson

dickie.wilkinson@merton.gov.uk / 07905 103 686



Merton Park Rejects Low Traffic Neighbourhood

When plans to consult on a Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) for Merton Park were announced, we said that it should be you, the residents, and not the Ward councillors who had the final say on whether they went ahead. You’ve certainly done that – and at length. We’d like to thank all 699 households who submitted valid responses, setting out their concerns in detail.

Contrary to expectations, only two in five (40%) agree there is a problem with rat running traffic through Merton Park, against 58% who disagree. Perceptions vary around the Ward, reflecting different traffic levels through the morning and evening peaks.

So, if residents do not accept the basic premise that rat running is a problem, many see no need for an LTN:
“This looks like a solution in search of a problem”

Apart from addressing rat running, LTNs are also intended to get people out of their cars and into more active travel modes (walking and cycling). But there is no evidence that residents would forsake their cars even if they found their journeys taking longer, because they believe their car use is essential, not optional:

“The proposal incorrectly assumes that if you make it more inconvenient for people, they will change their habits. What happens if people are driving not for convenience but for necessity?”

Consequently, residents responded to the four proposed schemes by assuming they would still use their cars, and working out how to accommodate the restrictions. Only the banned right turn from Church Lane was supported by more than one in four, because it would free up the left-hand turn onto Kingston Road:

Scheme	For	Against	Unsure
No right hand turn from Church Lane	28%	60%	12%
Sheridan Road one way	13%	75%	12%
No right hand turn from Kingston Road into Church Lane	15%	73%	11%
No left hand turn from Aylward into Leaffield Road	12%	72%	17%

If the restrictions lead to longer journey times, they are expected to generate displacement onto the two distributor roads, Dorset Road and Mostyn Road, and to a lesser extent Kenley Road. These are already heavily congested:

“The effect of the scheme would be to push more traffic onto Dorset Road and Mostyn Road – residential homes to many families”

Longer journeys on congested roads will cause more pollution, with negative implications for the health and safety of pupils at Park Academy (Dorset Road) and Rutlish School (Mostyn Road).

To make the LTN restrictions more acceptable, respondents suggest they could be limited to peak hours, or allow vehicles registered to residents to be exempt from ANPR penalties:

“The only way to reduce traffic in Merton Park is to restrict entry to non-resident, through-traffic, at the key entry points during peak hours. There must be an ANPR software solution to this”

These may be options for future consideration, but for now the residents have delivered their verdict, and we abide by that verdict as their Ward councillors. **There will be no LTN in Merton Park.**

Cllr. Peter Southgate

A New Zebra Crossing For Dorset Road

We are pleased to announce that after a prolonged but vigorous campaign by parents and your local Independent councillors a new zebra crossing has been installed on Dorset Road, outside Park Community School.

A number of schemes were proposed, but we are particularly pleased that the council finally came to the sensible conclusion that a zebra crossing would be of most benefit to the local residents and, of course, the children of Park Community School

Cllr. Dickie Wilkinson



Why Doesn't The Council Just...?

One criticism the council often faces is that what seems like common sense to the general public totally goes over the heads of the powers that be.

In fairness that's not strictly true and seemingly obvious ideas can involve a myriad of stakeholders. From needing permission from TFL, to consulting with emergency services and designing out crime, means that what appears to be an easy idea to the public can become quite complex. But sometimes a quick, cheap efficient solution does present itself and I'd like to take you on a journey of what happens when I put such an idea forward...

Dec—2018
Public Space workshop held with Cllrs. to input on initial ideas for fly tipping strategy.

I suggest approaching estate agents with a flier or letter to let tenants know about removing bulky waste as fly-tipping often occurs at end of tenancies and agents know exactly when this is.

Nov 2019 - Standards & General Purposes Committee (ST & G.P.)
The committee discusses the draft fly-tipping strategy & action plan, which says....

"Most fly-tips in Merton are white goods, furniture, black bags, carrier bags and mattresses accounting for over 80% of the total number of fly-tips in the borough".

"Excess rubbish generated by overcrowding or Houses with Multiple Occupation (HMOs)".

My idea is welcomed by Cllrs. across parties and the independent person, who sits on the panel, comments and expands on the idea.

Given this evidence, I ask what happened to the idea I suggested as it could cheaply & easily help address these points!

"We have also tested different engagement styles with landlords, management agents and estate agents".

"Lack of landlord & estate agent responsibility, especially when tenants move out".

"Transient population with a high turnover of residents and hard to reach groups with communication barriers".

March 2020 - ST & G.P.
Fly tipping strategy update: I am delighted that 'only 4 months later' a leaflet is produced to send out to estate agents & landlords... I thank the Public Space Team for their efforts....

...the meeting notes state "they have identified 19 agents in the local area to write to and will be a link on the LBM Website".

Pandemic Strikes, Ideas are put on hold.

June 2020
As restrictions ease I am aware the property market is busy once again, so I follow up asking exactly which agents have been approached with the leaflet...

I am informed the leaflet is now a 'Link' on the LBM website & 'it is our intention to write to estate agents to introduce this information by way of a letter.'

Latest figures show fly tipping increasing, even pre C-19. It cost the council over £650k in 2018/2019 to remove such fly tipping.

I check the fly-tipping strategy and discover that it has not even been approved. In fairness however this could be an oversight due to C-19.

Sept 2020
No Response.
6th April 2021
I ask again.
No Response.
I also check the LBM website link for the leaflet. Not there.

Allowing some time to pass, I chase again & stating that the response merely repeats what was said in March 2020. I ask again when it will happen.

MERTON COUNCIL

Welcome to Merton and to your recycling and rubbish collection service

Dear resident,

Welcome to your new home in Merton. As you settle in, we want to give you some key facts about your recycling and rubbish collection service and let you know where to find more information.

Visit our website merton.gov.uk to:

- 1 Find out when your collection day is.
- 2 Download a personalised recycling and rubbish collection calendar for your property.
- 3 Check what type of collection you have – bins, sacks or communal.
- 4 Order a replacement bin or sack.
- 5 Check the contents of your bin or sack.

On your collection day
Recycling is collected on an alternate weekly basis from houses and converted flats – please, cars, cars and glass one week; paper and card the following week, along with non-recyclable waste. Food waste, textiles and household batteries are collected every week.

Please present your recycling and rubbish by 8am on your scheduled collection day. Put it at the front edge of your property where our crew can see and easily reach it, but not on the road or pavement.

How to dispose of your bulky waste
If you're worried that you have too many things or are planning to splash out on a sofa or a replacement fridge freezer for your new property, we can help you dispose of your excess and bulky waste. The council provides a chargeable collection service for large waste items, including furniture, mattresses and electrical white goods. Book your collection online merton.gov.uk/bulky

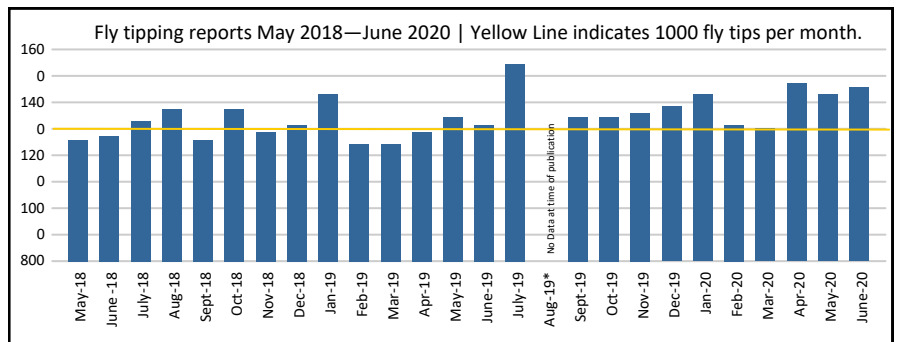
Alternatively you can visit the Garth Road Reuse and Recycling Centre in Merton, SW4 4KK to recycle and dispose of unwanted items. The centre is free to use for Merton residents. Please separate your rubbish and recycling materials before you arrive at the centre. Later this year, the council is introducing an optional free parent scheme – residents who sign up will not need to provide proof of address each time they visit.

Reporting environmental issues
As well as reporting recycling rates, we want to ensure our streets are clean and stop fly-tipping lighting our communities. Residents can play a key role in reporting fly-tips and information about fly-tippers and a range of other environmental issues online merton.gov.uk/fly-tipping

We hope you will be happy in your new home in Merton and will get the most out of your recycling and rubbish collection service, which has been designed to make it easy to recycle as much of your rubbish as possible from your property.

The Public Space Team, Merton Council

The Proposed Leaflet



In cases like this where the council takes too long to implement simple ideas which tackle issues that really matter to residents, your Independent councillors continue to act in your interests and hold the council to account.

Cllr. Dickie Wilkinson

Merton Park Ward Police Priorities

Following the results of the Police online survey asking residents how they felt about crime and safety in Merton Park, the three top priorities have been agreed for the next three months.

These are as follows:

Burglary has been lower than in previous years, mainly due to the lockdown and travel restrictions. However, it is now likely to increase as more residents return to work and other normal activities. Please remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the Police on 101 or, if an incident is actually taking place, call 999. Please do not report on Nextdoor or your street Whatsapp group before notifying the Police.

Speeding vehicles was an issue mentioned by many and so speed checks will take place to catch and deter drivers who drive too fast. Please don't end up getting stopped for exceeding the speed limits and do leave plenty of time if you are making a car journey.

Anti-social behaviour in parks is the third priority and, as the weather changes, our open spaces are very tempting for groups of youths. Our open spaces have become especially important over this last year and are there for all to enjoy. Keeping the noise down as it gets dark and not leaving bottles, cans and other litter behind would really help.

Cllr. Edward Foley



Thank You To Margaret Garrett, Our FORUM Delivery Co-ordinator

We are confident that our readers would like to join us in saying a very public and heartfelt "Thank You" to Margaret, who for 25 years has quietly and efficiently organised the team of volunteer deliverers who have posted copies of FORUM through your letterbox every six months.

Not only has she very ably organised the team over this period, but she has also sorted the hundreds of copies into bundles and taken these to her team for them to deliver. Such a task can often be overlooked, as it is unseen by most, but without her efforts to ensure that the newsletter gets to residents, all the work put into the production of FORUM would be wasted.

Margaret has frequently been known to rope in her children and grandchildren to help with delivery! All this to ensure that every household in Merton Park Ward gets their copy and for this we are in her debt. She now feels the time has come to allow someone else to take over and we wish her well in her "retirement" from this role.

Thank you indeed Margaret for a job very well done!

Pauline Lightfoot—Editor

Join us at Our Future [Zoom] Meetings - All Welcome

Tuesday 4th May —8pm

Speaker: Sarah Gould, LBM - Heritage Officer

Plus: Councillors' Reports and Q&A

Zoom link is published week before on MPWRA website or email:

mpwra@mertonpark.org.uk quoting, 'attend next meeting'

Tues. 1st June— 8pm Charles Baker, LBM - Public Space, Strategy & Commissioning Manager

Tues. 6th July—8pm Tara Butler—Future Merton-TBC

Aug. Summer Break Stay Safe & Holiday at Home!

Not yet a member of MPWRA? - Join at: www.mertonpark.org.uk



MPWRA Officers

Chairman: Hubert Child 020 8540 3087
Vice Chairman: Bryan Anderson
Secretary: Christine Stutt 020 8543 6843
Treasurer: Fred Rayner

MPWRA Committee

Ingrid Holtz Krysia Williams Greg Bryant
Graham Clark Stephen Mercer Pauline Southgate
Pauline Lightfoot David Merriman Jolanta Nowak
Ian Garbett

Contact MPWRA:

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