

Merton Park Ward Residents Association

Meeting Tuesday 3rd June 2025 8 pm at Merton Park Primary School

Present Miriam Ali-Puttergill, Councillor Edward Foley, Councillor Stephen Mercer, Ian Garbett, David Merriman, Fred Rayner, Stephen Johnson, Neaz Ahmed, Krysia Williams, Chris Stutt

Apologies Peter Southgate, Jolanta Novak, Bryan Anderson, Greg Bryant, Pauline Southgate

1.0 Welcome & Introduction

The minutes of May 2025 meeting were agreed and signed.

M A-P introduced the speakers from the Community Drug and Alcohol Recovery Services and Sunshine Recovery Café by Alexandra Thomas and Rachel Pereira

2.0 Speakers Community Drug and Alcohol Recovery Services and Sunshine Recovery Café by Alexandra Thomas and Rachel Pereira

The charity was founded in 1991 after it was set up by a local Sutton mother in 1985 in her front room. The charity provides family support for addicts. The charity now provides help for substance and alcohol abuse, mental health problems, neuro diverse problems and other psychosocial conditions. There is an excellent Recovery Cafe based in Wimbledon Chase, opposite the station. The charity delivers a range of services over five Boroughs, the aim of the café is to help reduce A&E visits. It is open from 6am to 11 pm Monday to Friday and weekends 12 pm to 11 pm every day of the year. The aim of the charity is to de-escalate a crisis so that people go home and visit their GP not rush to A&E. If this is not possible then the police/A&E visit will happen. There are various support groups run in the café & one-to-one support available. Mental health, substance and alcohol abuse, neuro diversity of three main areas plus there is a group to help the carers. There is a young person's (18 to 25) support group. The programmes help people abstain and give them support in this aim (but not medication) it helps people find a purpose and get back to normal life. There is a suicide prevention program specialist support 12 week programme and a men's health club to help with reduced isolation with things like a boxing club. There is a veterans program run by veterans of Iraq which provides peer support and aims to improve mental health.

Health and well-being of all clients so that they can maintain their recovery. There is a visit to Dean city farm every Thursday where people can work with animals & do farming. There are classes in art, mindfulness, boxing classes et cetera. People can self refer or be referred by GPs, social prescribers, social workers, pharmacy workers and others.

Please spread the word and fund raise for us.

Q What staff do you have?

A We have professionals and volunteers working for us

Q Where is the café?

A Opposite Wimbledon Chase station, in an alleyway between the gym and

restaurant. Please ring us if you cannot find the café.

Q Are you open on holidays?

Q Yes we are even open on Christmas Day. We have a lunch and we provide transport to get people to the café.

Q How are you funded? With professionals and five Boroughs to cover that is a large remit.

A 25 full-time staff and 10 volunteers. We do not have a physical presence in five Boroughs but we offer other Boroughs our services. We have an income of about £1 million of which half from the local authority and half is from other foundations. We wish to diversify our income stream.

Q Are the number of referrals increasing or decreasing over the last six months?

A We get about 2/3 new registrations a day and this is increasing. Café regulars are only allowed to spend three days a week, otherwise they would spend seven days at the café and get dependent on it. We used to have 50 people a day but now we have about 15 to 20 people after this change.

Q How do people know about you?

A We have partnerships with other organisations Police, health care people etc

Q Police no longer deal with mental health crisis so how do people get to you?

A We have a partnership with St George's crisis team. Police & Ambulance comes promptly and they value our judgement if we refer people to them. If there is a 999 crisis Police & Paramedics will still respond to it.

Mental health problems growing, now is a real issue. It's fantastic news about your charity, good of you to come to explain your work.

3.0 Councillor Edward Foley report

VE day 80th celebrations the Deputy Lieutenant plus Piper came to the Council offices and in the evening there was a procession through Wimbledon village.

Lanterns were lit around the war memorial. The Wandle brass band played and there was a lighting of a beacon.

Speed watch – speeding is a problem in Merton Park and there was a speed watch in Mostyn Road, about 5 pm the other day. In the past if people were caught doing more than 25 miles an hour they got a letter in the post which said if they were caught speeding again, they would be fined.

Now there are new cameras which take photos and fines are issued straight away, without a warning. The maximum speed that the speed watch clocked was 30 miles an hour. There will be other speed watches and if you want to join in speak to Councillor Foley. If there are regular speed watches this may deter people from speeding through the area. We need more volunteers, please

Aylwood Road the lime trees were pollarded. WhatsApp groups work very well for roadworks et cetera, but not so good for tree work. People were worried about the nesting birds. Councillor Foley spoke to the tree team and the 26th unhappy people and it was all resolved, because the work had to be done.

Manor Gardens trees - it is now more than 11 years since these were pollarded and the road is very dark at night

Mostyn Gardens Muslim Women of Merton have more work to do in Mostyn Gardens - with wildflowers and picnic benches to be installed

‘ Pocket gardens ‘ - it is the Council’s ambition for its 60th anniversary to turn Council owned small areas into nicer areas. The area outside church Saint Marys Church could do with some work and a notice by Nelson step put in. It was pointed out that this area was a black death grave. When there were too many people to be buried in the church they were buried just outside it.

Nelson News agents - Yogesh has taken over the shop next door and the post office and new store will reopen on Friday 5th of June - when we will be able to buy Cook Ready frozen meals there.

Scrutiny workshop committee next week - the school streets effect on residents will be looked at. It is difficult for residents to get deliveries and workmen, but the Council officers do not seem to understand this.

E bikes whiz up and down the roads dangerously and some have nearly hit children and the elderly. The riders have no road sense or helmets. Under 18s are not allowed to ride Lime or Forest bikes but are ridden by young people. There have been lots of injured sent A&E but the Council get money for hosting these bikes and it is a good ‘green washing ‘ initiative.

Q School streets – more representations needed?

A If scrutiny looks into it then yes more information needed. Councillor Foley is worried that the residents do not get a good deal and it is not easy to renew permits. One resident said when renewing Council parking permit they got a school street permit as well, which was very efficient. It seems this works but you do not automatically get a school street permit if you don’t have a Council parking permit - as Watery Lane and Manor Gardens are not in a CPZ so don’t require Council parking permits. One resident said it was difficult to prove that she had lived here for over 40 years.

Blue badges - there are long delays in acquiring a blue badge, but new software is being brought in to speed up the process. Disabled parking bays -some parking bays are lost to E Bikes meaning that people can’t get a disabled bay near their house. The new transport member now wants to add bike parking in streets, which will make the situation worse.

4.0 Councillor Stephen Mercer’s report.

Councillor Mercer reported that he had been in China over Easter to discuss the 140% tariff on exporting goods to the USA. As he left China, Donald Trump then changed his mind about this tariff. Councillor Mercer went on holiday to Japan, where everything was very cheap, clean and organised.

TfL Morden station is to get an accessible toilet by the end of the year - for use by all. This will happen but Councillor Mercer was concerned about the level of cleaning which has been set up twice a day and may not be enough for this location.

Q Wimbledon station - how often the toilets clean there?

A interesting question, will investigate

School streets signage - slow progress on getting the posts painted white to make them more visible to alert people that they are entering a school zone and will be fine if it's early morning or afternoon when schools are starting and finishing.

Park's consultation open to the 30th of June please reply to the Future of Parks and Green Spaces in Merton.

Consultation on parking in Daybrook Road in September and the bottom of Kenley Road by the end of the year.

Councillor Mercer attended Rutfest in May. There are 1000+ children attending sessions at Old Ruts and there is not enough space for them. Councillor Mercer is trying to help with this problem.

Sheridan Road parking restrictions – new yellow lines have been painted to stop people parking by the junctions.

Councillor Mercer has been looking at the tram line plans to connect Wimbledon with other places. There was a £560 million plan which was shelved. There is now a plan to run an electric bus, in a loop, which will cost £200 million instead and has got a positive reaction so far.

Q HMO planning permission in Kenley Road refused. Is this a general presumption for Merton Park?

A Lots of reservations for HMO's but they are not certain to be refused. The To Let sign has £5000 a month as the letting fee. It is difficult to enforce because one has to prove that 10 people are living there, rather than a 10 person family. Need local residents to help.

Q Daybrook Road and Kenley Road parking – when Woolworths was granted an events licence, there was no thought to the parking problems this would generate?

A Interesting observation

Q Access to Morden Road tram stop?

A The latest information is that the MOD are getting a price for the drawings to get the land to link to the platform. Sadly another month has gone by with no progress but hopefully the dialogue is continuing so it may happen, especially as there are local elections next year. It's been more than 10 years trying to get step free access.

Last year at the grass verges were not cut for ages but this year they have been cut after the bulbs flowered, in a timely manner

5.0 Date of next meeting AGM

Tuesday 1st July 8pm at Merton Park Primary School