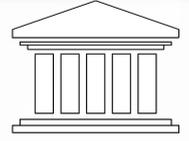




# Merton Park Ward Independent Residents

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



## Vote for your Independent Residents Candidates in the Council Elections on Thursday May 7<sup>th</sup>

### Why vote for us?

- We live in the Ward and are in tune with your concerns and aspirations
- We are here solely to represent you, our residents, and your best interests
- We are not aligned with any other national party or directive and can judge each issue on its merits
- We are accessible and visible to all and report regularly at monthly residents' meetings
- We build on a long tradition of influencing local planning, and of protecting and enhancing our Ward



### No one knows Merton Park Ward better than we do

- We are local people – the Committee of the Merton Park Ward Residents Association and the candidates have all lived in the Ward for many years and care deeply about it
- For the last 36 years our Independent Councillors have been focused on this Ward only, not trying to win seats elsewhere
- Through FORUM, our bi-annual newsletter, our monthly meetings and our regular email alerts, we keep our residents informed about issues of interest or concern
- We are out and about frequently, so we know what's looking good and what needs fixing
- As a result, we know many of the Ward residents personally and are proud to be a part of our diverse community

<b>Foley, Edward</b>	Independent Residents	<b>X</b>
<b>Mercer, Stephen</b>	Independent Residents	<b>X</b>

**Remember to VOTE INDEPENDENT on 7<sup>th</sup> May**

# Our record over the last Four Years, and our ambitions for the future

## Morden Regeneration – we

- continue to call for a community focused Town Centre in Morden
- have pressed and will continue to press for better parking provision to support local shops
- welcome proposals for new housing, including affordable homes, in Morden, but will wish to ensure this is achieved at a human scale
- will not be afraid to challenge proposals like the hotel on Crown Lane which seem too large or out of keeping with the surrounding area



London Road, Morden: still awaiting rejuvenation

## Traffic and Road Safety – we

- have encouraged and supported our local Police as they enforce the 20mph limit within the Ward
- proposed yellow posts for improved visibility of 'school streets' warning signs for unsuspecting drivers, now being adopted elsewhere in the Borough
- have pressed for better management of abandoned hire bikes, and continue to review the suitability of locations for parking bays for bikes not in use
- continue to monitor proposals for Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, and support proper consultation with residents prior to their introduction



The need for management of abandoned hire bikes

## Planning Issues – we

- will continue to oppose proposals for unacceptably high density of development anywhere within the Ward
- continue to support the right of our residents to make representations about planning applications which may have an adverse impact on the area
- can and frequently do call on many years of wide experience of planning matters on the residents' committee to inform our approach
- have helped prevent the closure of the Londis/Post Office on Crown Lane following a campaign by local residents (*above*)
- have successfully achieved modifications to the proposed development on the Robins & Day site on Morden Road



For more information contact us at: [mpwra@mertonpark.org.uk](mailto:mpwra@mertonpark.org.uk)

## Public Toilets in Morden - we

- led the production of a borough-wide report with recommendations on the provision of public toilets, accepted by all parties in the Council
- have spearheaded the re-start of a Community Toilet Scheme in Council-owned buildings and elsewhere
- identified Morden Underground Station as a key location and campaigned for provision as a top priority - where Transport for London have now opened a new toilet
- continue to fight for increased funding to improve toilet provision in the ward and across the Borough



Celebrating opening of public toilets at Morden Underground Station

## Parks and Spaces – we

- continue to support the work of Friends Groups in all three of our local parks
- have deployed the Ward Allocation funds to restore the pond in John Innes Park and support the planting of daffodils across the Ward
- have encouraged and welcomed the work of the Muslim Women of Merton to create a new garden in Mostyn Gardens
- continue to campaign for a dedicated water supply in Kendor Gardens to support the work of the Friends Group in planting and maintenance
- have pressed and will continue to press for better quality maintenance and care for our street trees



The refurbished pond in John Innes Park



The new garden in Mostyn Gardens, the work of the Muslim Women of Merton

## Combating crime – we

- provide the Chair for the Ward Panel, which identifies priorities for local policing
- continue to encourage the reporting of crimes and attempted crimes to the Police
- receive regular updates at our monthly meetings from local Police on issues concerning the Ward

## Still unfinished business

Despite a great deal of hard work, including site visits with key stakeholders, we still have not achieved our ambition to gain access to Morden Road tramstop on level ground from Dorset Road. Frustratingly it is not now seen as a priority by Transport for London

We will still seek a way through the complexities of ownership and responsibilities to provide this access for everyone and especially wheelchair users and those with pushchairs

**Stephen Mercer** has lived in Merton for 31 years and Merton Park for 27 of those.

He qualified as a solicitor, working in the City and Hong Kong before doing an MBA at London Business School. Since 1998 he has run his own business, located just off Plough Lane, which has thrived despite financial crash, COVID, Ukraine etc.

His wife Carole is a solicitor working for the government in Whitehall and they have two adult children, both educated in the Borough. Stephen cycles (to work and for fun), coached rugby at Old Ruts, climbed Kilimanjaro and still manages a local team of similar aged footballers who play weekly 5-a-side.



Stephen particularly treasures the community of Merton Park and the green spaces within it. Living in the south of the ward he regularly walks around Kendor Gardens and Mostyn Gardens and has actively supported the volunteers who work there. Living a stone's throw from the Civic Centre, he is focused on ensuring the Council maximises the opportunity presented by the (eventual) redevelopment of Morden.



**Edward Foley** has lived in Merton Park since 1999. Until recently, he owned and operated an estate agency business in Wimbledon Village for many years, and he has now returned to working in property.

He joined the MPWRA committee sixteen years ago and became vice-chair in 2012. Edward has long taken an active role in the Merton Park community. He served on the Diamond Jubilee committee and sponsored the Cobham Brass Band for the celebrations on the Glebe Field. He was a governor at Ricards Lodge High School and served as Chair until stepping down in 2024. He has also been an active member of the Ward

Panel for the Merton Park Safer Neighbourhoods Team for the past decade.

Edward was widowed in 2021. He has two grown-up children: his daughter attended Ricards Lodge High School and was a Wimbledon Ball Girl in 2013, and his son attended Rutlish School. Edward coached rugby for over ten years at Old Emanuel Rugby Club, and he continues to referee most weekends for the London Society.

Edward has served as an Independent Residents Councillor for Merton Park Ward for the past twelve years and was Deputy Mayor of Merton 2019-20. He has a strong track record of helping local residents and attends many local events.

## MAKE SURE YOU'RE REGISTERED TO VOTE

**If you are not yet registered to vote do so by 20 April and if you want to vote by post apply by 5.00 pm on 21 April at**

<https://www.merton.gov.uk/council-and-local-democracy/elections-and-voting>

or telephone: 020 8545 3407



Don't forget to bring your photo ID to the Polling Station