

Merton Park Ward Residents' Association meeting at Merton Park Primary School
Tuesday 2nd December 2025 8pm

Present Councillor Edward Foley, Councillor Stephen Mercer, David Merriman, Hubert Child, Dese Child, Fred Rayner, Stephen Johnson, Pauline Lightfoot, Pauline Southgate, Neaz Ahmed, Ian Garbett, Krysia Williams, Ingrid Holtz, Chris Stutt

Apologies Jolanta Novak, Greg Bryant

1.0 Minutes of the last meeting

The November 2025 meeting minutes were agreed and signed.

Vice Chair David Merriman chaired the meeting in the absence of Mariam Ali-Puttergill who had tendered her resignation by e mail a few days prior to the meeting - see later note.

2.0 Police report

Police Constable Alina Neacsu PCSO Paula Besleaga attended the meeting.

There have been no robberies since the last meeting and shoplifting has gone down after Police efforts. There is a meeting this evening at Ricards Lodge school where the Police will listen to the communities' concerns. There is a new platform called Met Engage which we are encouraged to use in addition to 101 and 999 calls. People can ask questions on Met Engage and get prompt replies.

Q Do the Police work with the officers of the antisocial behaviour unit and has this unit had any success in reducing antisocial behaviour?

A Yes we do work together and we have had some success in reducing antisocial behaviour.

Q There was a car travelling along Dorset Road that ended up in a front garden. Do you know what happened?

A No it has not been reported to the Police yet. The Police urged people to report incidents like this, to them.

The Chair asked for a show of hands as to who had signed up to the new Met Engage app and there was a large show of hands.

3.0 Councillor Stephen Mercer's report

Crown Lane Hotel – the old buildings are being demolished and there is a revised planning application in, for larger bedrooms and better fire escapes. This planning application will be heard soon. In January, Councillor Mercer will have a meeting with the developers. The building work is due to start in February.

Remembrance Sunday services were well attended.

Morden station toilets were due to be opened on the 19th of November - World Toilet Day - but they have not been opened. The statement issued said that they are hoping to be open in the New Year, not by the New Year sadly.

Full Council meeting - we asked questions about the funding for the toilets. The Council said they could not comment on money in the budget for next year.

Police station closures are likely to happen in Wimbledon and Mitcham, although there may be another presence on the High Street being considered

Morden Christmas event was held in Abbotsbury Road last Friday and was very merry successful. The Council Leader, Cabinet members, Mayor and Deputy Mayor all attended. The Christmas lights were switched on. There is a £30 million budget to remodel Morden - but no idea of how or when, this money will be spent. The funds are from the sale of a company by the Council, which raised £180 million. As yet there is no developer for the whole Morden project.

Councillor Merce is now on the Board of the NE Surrey Crematorium (at Lower Morden/Garth Road). He feels he can help as it is effectively a small business, like his own. As an example, he has initiated a consideration of the environmental impact of crematorium because it uses a lot of energy.

Reminder there are two consultations currently happening. One is about walking and cycling and using prams, wheelchairs et cetera on pavements. Please reply by the 14th of December. The second is about the Council Budget. Councillor Mercer has been calling for 1p per week per resident, to fund the toilets and encouraged residents to feed into the consultation, which closes on the 7th of December.

Councillor Mercer mentioned that Christmas cards were being sold at tonight's meeting and there was also a flyer for Morden Park Coral Society concert.

Q In future consultations with the developers - will there be more rooms in the hotel?

A It is related to Grenfill Towers - all 7+ storey buildings need to have two sets of stairs for fire exits. This will be a premium hotel, so there will be bigger rooms but the windows will not overlook neighbours.

4.0 Councillor Edward Foley report

Councillor Foley attended the Remembrance service at the Nelson Centre which had a very good turnout as did Wimbledon village. Alderman Peter Southgate attended the Mitcham service.

Live facial recognition was trialled by the Safer Neighbourhood team in Morden and within the first five minutes someone was caught and arrested. The neighbourhood patrols are separate from the Police - these are to deter people from antisocial behaviour.

Only 18th November Councillor Foley attended a workshop in Westminster for the Chairs of Scrutiny. This was a useful meeting and Councillor Foley made some useful contacts in London and in the rest of England.

On a 19th of November there was a special Council meeting where Alan Barley, an ex-service man, was given Freedom of the Borough, for his war service of 60 years and his work at the British Legion. Stephen Hammond was also given the Freedom of the Borough (he was our conservative MP until the last election) and the proceedings were streamed on YouTube. At the full Council meeting afterwards we supported the proposal for more health screening for women, as did the Conservatives, but this was not supported by Labour. We also supported the Sadiq Khan inquiry into the grooming gangs of London and again Labour did not support this motion.

Planning - Mitcham Gas works site - this is the third application but there is not enough money for social housing. Councillor Foley asked for more parking - currently there is 142 spaces for 600 flats.

Mariam Ali-Puttergil has decided to resign as the Chair of the Resident Association. Her workload has increased and with two small children, she does not have the time to devote to the Residents Association. David Merriman kindly agreed to be the Interim Chair, and we are seeking a new permanent Chair.

Pauline Lightfoot is also having a break for surgery, so we need some more help for Forum publications.

Q Tree pollarding ?

A Councillor Foley has been told for the last 2 years, that the trees will be pollarded in Manor Gardens. Now they are promising to do it after the leaves have fallen - so far 13,500 tons of leaves have been collected, so we are halfway there.

Q Will the toilets at Morden station be open in the new year ?

A TfL are responsible for the toilets. The business toilet scheme sounds good but has its problems. The toilets can be left dirty and may not be available for paying customers when they want to use them. Maintenance is a problem. Maybe a cleaner who went around all the business scheme toilets might help?

Fred Rayner has been trying to get a toilet in Kendor Gardens - it is an uphill struggle

Q Crown House work ?

A Air conditioning is being put in. Councillors do not have access to their office for 6 weeks during the works.

Q Church Lane road was resurfaced but not the pavements - when will these be done ?

A Next year.

Also Abbey wall was falling down and Merton Council are responsible. The Council need reminding that they are also responsible for Church Lane wall.

Q Do we have a strategy for getting younger people involved in the Residents Association?

A It is a different era - most young families need both parents to work. It was pointed out that we are a victim of our own success - if we had an issue it would attract people to rally round !

Councillor Foley said that volunteers were also needed for the Alms House charity, which is a very worthy charity, providing accommodation for the elderly.

Q Cycle storage racks in the road - are there any plans for ones in our Ward ?

A Normally they are near flats where there are no cycle facilities, or places without gardens.

People are upset about losing parking spaces. The Council does consult people but does not have a legal obligation to do what the public want ! The provision of these racks is demand led - same as EV charging points.

Tree maintenance work link -

<https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/design-conservation/trees/works>

To see when and where, tree work being done.

It was thought that the developer of the Gas works site in Mitcham would wriggle out of providing social housing. They have to pay £6-7m in CIL fees but they will not find the money for social housing

5.0 100 Club Draw

3rd prize £20 number 48 Penny Walton

2nd prize £30 number 3 Julie Dexter

1st prize £50 number 72 Raymond Curry

6.0 Date of next meetings

No meeting in January. Next meeting 3rd February OLD RUTS

Following meetings 3rd March and 7th April. No meeting on 5th May (just before local elections on 7th May)