

Merton Council Council

18 September 2024

Supplementary agenda

5 Public questions to cabinet members

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The questions and written responses will be circulated at the meeting.

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From Ken O'Toole

To the Cabinet Member for Transport

Sainsbury's Car Park - As I understand money has been allocated for repairs ,why is it taking so long?

Reply

Due to the car park being leased from Transport for London, works are only able to start once an agreement with TfL has been reached. The council is in discussions with TfL regarding the reconfiguration of the car park and we hope to be able to update residents and make progress on these repairs soon.

From Barry Smith

To the Cabinet Member for Transport

Last year the council said they planned to run pilot schemes to allow on-street electric vehicle charging using residents own electricity. Could the council give an update on the pilot schemes which are now running, and an indication for when results will be available?

Reply

The previous Conservative government announced in its "Plan for Drivers" that it would publish guidance on cross pavement cable channels that allow residents to charge a vehicle from their own electricity supply. Unfortunately, this guidance was delayed due to the election and is now due to be published in the Autumn. The Council will consider this guidance carefully in relation to issues around safety, liability and highway maintenance before developing a policy on cable channels and embarking on pilot schemes In the meantime, we are continuing with the implementation of EV bays at existing lamp column charge points, as well as the replacement, upgrade, and installation of new lamp column charge points.

From M Circelli

To the Cabinet Member for Civic Pride

Residents of The Path, SW19 3BL, demand urgent action on antisocial behavior from the Nelson Trading Estate. They seek an immediate review of the estate's planning consent, questioning why Merton Council granted it without restrictions, negatively impacting the daily lives of residents living directly opposite the trade park.

Reply

I'm aware that local residents are in touch with the owners and managers of the Nelson Trading Estate following some incidents and break ins and that the managers have taken some actions to make the site secure.

The Council ASB Team have been alerted and will monitor the location to assess any concerns and take necessary action to address. If you do have concerns or experience anti-social behaviour, then please report this either to the Police via 999 in an emergency, via 101 non-emergencies, or to the ASB Team on asbu@merton.gov.uk or 020 8274 4907. Further information can be found on our website [Anti-social behaviour | Merton Council](#) .

Council's planning records indicate there are a number of consents for the erection of industrial units and associated works at Nelson Trading Estate in the 1980s. There are no records of any time restriction to the use of the premises. Given these are historic consents, Officers are unable to access any records setting out the assessment of the application

From Robyn Gladwyn

To the Cabinet Member for Local Environment, Green Spaces and Climate Change

What is Merton's strategy for increasing canopy cover in our streets given the high number of tree pits that have been tarmaced over or left empty in recent years? Surely this is particularly important if we are to avoid urban heat islands in a warming world.

Reply

During 2022-23 the council undertook an extensive survey of the councils 18,000 highways tree assets and part of this survey logged all the vacant tree pit locations borough wide which currently stands at circa 3,000 vacant tree pits. Getting these vacant pits refilled with new trees is a priority for us as part of our approach to increasing the borough's tree canopy and protecting against urban heat islands.

With this data the council has reviewed its street tree replacement program, highways carriageway improvement program, Section 106 program and social value contractor credits. As a result and as a step towards rectifying where there are vacant pits, the council will be planting 500 street trees standards this year which is a 50% increase from standard street tree planting in 2023-24. In line with Tree Strategy Action Plan E03: Planning for Tree Planting and Establishment the council will be focusing street tree planting in low canopy cover wards.

The details of the Street Tree Replacement Planting Program 2024-25 will be published on the councils Planned Tree Works Page by the end of October 2024, and can be viewed here: [Planned tree works : Overview | Merton Council](#).

Based on the above rate of street tree replacement planting the council will look to re stock vacant tree pits within six years.

The councils Greenspace and Arboriculture Team continue to seek external funding, sponsorship and social value credits to keep increasing the rate of re-planting annually in future years.

From James Markham

To the Cabinet Member for Transport

Will he please confirm that, in Merton's Unitary Development Plan, Woodside SW19 is designated as a Local Access Road?

Reply

Woodside is not designated as a Local Access Road, but instead forms part of Merton's unclassified road networks. The Department for Transport no longer use the Local Access Road classification for the road network. Additionally, this designation is not used in the council's adopted or new Development Plans as it is not a designation used by the planning system. For further information, please visit the Guidance on road classification and the primary route network available on the government website.

From Jane Barnes

To the Cabinet Member for Local Environment, Green Spaces and Climate Change

A Biodiversity Net Gain of 10% is mandatory but developers can't currently buy offsite credits within Merton. When will Merton have a BNG officer and when will a Merton site be registered to provide offsite BNG credit? Could Merton lose Biodiversity credits to out of borough sites before then?

Reply

Delivering greater biodiversity is vital to developing in a way which safeguards a sustainable future for generations to come. The council's greenspaces team is currently looking at whether the council has appropriate sites which can offer

biodiversity credits. It is unknown when this will become available as the Council's Greenspaces team are still reviewing. Developers would be able to buy off-site credits outside of the Borough with appropriately registered sites.