

COUNCIL 27 MARCH 2013
SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Agenda Item 5 – Public Questions

The public questions are circulated around the chamber

Agenda Item 6 – Councillors Questions

The councillors' questions are circulated around the chamber

Agenda Item 7

Motion 1 (Conservative)

Submitted by Councillors Suzanne Evans, Logie Lohendran and Linda Scott

This Council recognises that cleanliness of the borough's streets is a priority for residents and businesses in Merton. According to the latest Annual Residents' Survey, litter and dirt in the streets remains one of the top concerns for people living in Merton.

This Council is however concerned that:

- Decomposing Christmas trees still remain uncollected from various streets around the borough;
- There has been an increase in recent weeks in the number of missed garden waste collections owing to vehicle breakdowns;
- Only one fine was issued in Merton for dog fouling during the whole of 2012;
- Plans by the previous administration for chewing gum cleaning machines and for 24 hour weekend cleaning in Merton's town centres have not been taken forward; and
- Resident satisfaction with the way the council deals with litter is down 3 percentage points compared to 2010

This Council believes that cuts to the street cleaning and waste collection budgets constitute a false economy if they simply lead to an increased number of complaints and to additional resources having to be deployed to rectify the service failures reported. One example often highlighted by residents is the current administration's decision to stop street sweeping following refuse collections.

This Council recognises the valid concerns expressed by residents about the impact of this on the cleanliness of their streets and therefore resolves to ask Cabinet to reverse its previous decision and to reintroduce the practice whereby street sweepers follow immediately after the refuse collection vehicles.

Motion 2 (Labour)

Submitted by Councillors Agatha Akyigyina, Brenda Fraser and Russell Makin

Council notes that our waste and recycling services help contribute to the cleanliness of our borough and the quality of life of our residents. Council therefore welcomes:

- A 6% increase in resident satisfaction with our recycling services and a recycling rate now at almost 40%
- Waste collection services at 5% above the London average and 7% above the outer London average, as measured in the 2012 Annual Residents' Survey
- The next phase of the South West London Waste Partnership contract, which will lead to savings of £27m over 25 years for the council, in addition to almost completely ending our use of landfill.

Council acknowledges that, in addition to providing a good quality domestic waste and recycling service, it is also important to focus on the cleanliness of the wider public realm and further welcomes:

- The recent enforcement action against an individual who dropped litter in Colliers Wood and who was subsequently ordered by the courts to pay a fine and costs of £400
- The pilot "smart bins" initiative in Morden to deal with the problem of cigarette and chewing gum waste
- The new "Street Champions" programme where local residents are working with the council in reporting street scene issues.

Whilst welcoming all of the above initiatives, Council believes that the regular street clean remains fundamental to a cleaner Merton and welcomes Cabinet and Scrutiny's decision not to support budgets reductions in this area. Council further resolves to continue to protect the regular street clean going forward, even in the face of the current squeeze on local government funding.

Motion 3 (Conservative)

Submitted by Councillors Richard Hilton, David Dean and Suzanne Evans.

This Council notes that:

- Viridor was appointed in January 2012 as the preferred bidder for the South London Waste Partnership's £990 million waste treatment contract and plans are being progressed for an incinerator at Beddington Lane;
- The current plans include chimneys standing at 85 metres high that will emit many tonnes of fine particle pollution, such as NO₂, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} into the local atmosphere;

- The Conservative Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, has already raised objections to the inappropriate use of Metropolitan Open Land for this purpose and to the loss of local wildlife habitat.

This Council believes that:

- Beddington Lane, as a designated air quality management area, already suffers with pollution and shares local residents' concerns that an incinerator could make pollution levels worse;
- Insufficient reassurance has been provided by the developers, Viridor to the serious concerns our residents hold;
- We have a responsibility to make Merton a 'Green Borough' and much of the waste proposed to be sent to the incinerator can and should be recycled;
- The proposal comprises inappropriate development on Metropolitan Open Land for which very special circumstances are still to be demonstrated in accordance with London Plan policy.

This Council resolves that:

- a) the Cabinet Member write to Viridor seeking technical information on how waste will be dealt with; more information on how the loss of Metropolitan Open Land will be rectified; the need for a greater and more detailed air quality analysis; and to address concerns about the loss of a wildlife habitat which would result from the scheme as it stands.
- b) If the response is inadequate, Cabinet urges the London Borough of Sutton to reject the proposals for the incinerator in favour of other regional incinerators bidding for waste, and that Cabinet does not consider any plans for an incinerator within Merton.

**PTO for Agenda Item 8 – Report of the Raynes Park
Community Forum**

REPORT OF THE RAYNES PARK COMMUNITY FORUM
7 March 2013

90 People were in attendance.

Meeting chaired by Cllr Miles Windsor

1) Medical Centre. Dr Howard Freeman said that the Medical centre will open in the next 10 days. He spoke about 'Better Services Better Value' and explained that the process had been complicated and delayed because of the inclusion of hospital provision in parts of Surrey.

2) Area to the South of the Skew Arch. Tony Edwards (Place, Design & Planning) gave a presentation on what could be achieved in this area. The basic premise is to reduce the road to single carriageway and use the land adjacent to the railway as public space. Everyone was pleased with the work he'd undertaken. It was noted that no funding has yet been identified for such work.

The Raynes Park Association (RPA) is continuing to promote aspects of the Enhancement plan and has therefore promoted the idea of development both north and south of the railway. PLACE with Peter Fisher from the Apostles Residents Association (ARA)/RPA have therefore amplified proposals for the opportunity to create a potential civic space and market area in Raynes Park.

3) Christmas Tree. Waitrose have offered £500 towards a Christmas Tree for the Bell Mouth. Network Rail and South West Trains have been asked if they have any objections – none so far have been received. Neil Milligan (LBM) will check out electrical connection.

4) Junction of Durham Road & Coombe Lane. Following the fatal accident in December, concerns have been expressed at the safety for pedestrians in this area. A suggestion has been made for the junction to become a full 4-way crossroads with lights. (The ones at Blockbusters would then be removed.)

5) Future of Raynes Park Post Office. Cllr Linda Scott read a statement from the Post Office. They appear to be committed to retaining a Post office in Raynes Park, although a franchise arrangement is their preferred option. Concern was expressed that any such arrangement would result in a poorer and limited service. Linda suggested people may wish to contact Simon Burman at the Post office simon.burman@postoffice.co.uk copying in our MP, Stephen Hammond hammondsp@parliament.uk.

6) Raynes Park Station. Chris Larkman (Raynes Park Association) gave a report on Raynes Park Station. The 'lower' station decorating has been achieved successfully by South West Trains. The campaign, assisted by our MP, Stephen Hammond, is to persuade Network Rail to undertake some external painting to include the bridge. The platforms are about to be

extended, and this will cause disruption. We will campaign for a lift to platforms 3 and 4

7) Rainbow Estate. Neil Milligan reported that consultation on proposals continues and involves local representatives. The current proposals include some residential units. Most people feel that the estate is unsuitable for residential use.

8) Raynes Park Enhancement Plan. Neil Milligan said that they are trying to ascertain what S106 monies remain and what other monies can be added to this. The current priorities are a) paving from the new Medical Centre southwards b) West Barnes Lane c) The area outside Wetherspoons. Much of the work includes decluttering of obsolete street furniture.

9) Planning Matters. Neil Milligan gave updates on local planning applications. Travelodge, who appeared to have had financial problems, have now shown some interest in resurrecting plans for a hotel above the Post Office. No news on the Manoplastics site in Kingston Road. There is a planning application for 7 terraced houses in Firstway to replace garages.

10) Parking in Raynes Park. Neil Milligan reported back on some of the queries which had been mentioned at the previous Forum.

There is no alternative parking regime on the public highway for residents only, where residents can park free of charge that exclude other motorists.

Crossover parking within a CPZ, if allowed, would require a parking bay to be installed over the access point and anyone with a permit for the zone would be entitled to park on the bay.

Parking spaces close to businesses usually have shared use bays or pay and display only.

During informal consultation of a CPZ, three different hours of operating offered to residents. For example, Monday – Friday or Saturday, 8.30am – 6.30pm, 10am – 4pm or 1 hour. The option chosen by majority of residents who returned their cards is introduced.

The council monitor all newly introduced CPZ and carry out a review when necessary to improve and tailor the scheme to the need of residents and businesses in the area. During the review all options as above including removal of the scheme are offered again to residents and businesses. The scheme is then amended if there is a need to do so.

Chris Larkman said that is important to get a balance between the needs of businesses and residents. He is meeting with representatives of local businesses with senior officers at LBM to plead for an improved parking regime to assist both businesses and their customers.

He also said that a meeting has been planned for 7pm at Dundonald Church on 9 May to which residents of the uncontrolled Apostle roads and the other

roads in the area still uncontrolled. The proposal is that the whole area should become a CPZ or else the remaining roads should remain uncontrolled. The meeting will be followed by a consultation for each household.

11) Open Forum.

a) Morley Park. Morley Park Trust is in active discussion with the Council on the 17 acres of Morley Park which provides playing fields, woodland and meadow to serve the local community. The developers of the Atkinson Morley site have provided money for the upkeep on the park. The Ursuline School are also a preferred user of the playing fields but the park should be accessible for the whole community, including other schools. Under the Localism Act, local communities are encouraged to submit expressions of interest in managing their local facilities. Morley Part Trust has all the expertise available to manage the park for community benefit , and want to manage it in an ecologically and economically sustainable manner, and hence it is in discussion with the Council regarding future management of the park.

b) Borough Wide Drinking Restrictions. People wanted more information. Rev Andrew Wakefield (LMB Safer Merton) pointed out that this gives powers to the police to stop people drinking alcohol in a public place, but does not necessarily mean drinking in a public place is banned.

c) Skew Arch Graffiti Art. Natalie Ramtohul addressed the meeting. She is an art student and wants to provide some Gaffiti Art to brighten up the Skew Arch. There was general agreement to this request. It was agreed she would come back with specific plans. Chris Larkman agreed to contact LBM, Network Rail and South West Trains to make sure there were no objections.