

Merton Council

Council

4 July 2018

Supplementary agenda 2

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COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2018
NOTICE OF MOTION

LABOUR AMENDMENT

This council ~~notes with disappointment the decision by Virgin Active to close condemns the failure of the administration to find an alternate use for~~ the former Virgin gym in Battle Close, ~~thereby passing on to the council the burden of monthly costs of nearly .~~The site has become a focus for anti-social behaviour causing great concern for the residents of Trinity. ~~Due to the administrations inaction, £2827,000 of taxpayer's money is being lost every month on business rates and security measures to prevent~~ing the site from deteriorating further. ~~This~~The council ~~calls upon the cabinet to:~~resolves to:

- ~~Continually r~~Review ~~previous~~ options for very short term use ~~that would save taxpayers money;~~
- Request Cabinet approve long term alternative uses, including housing. ~~Publically state what options the council are considering to bring the site back into use.~~

Councillor James Holmes Councillor Hayley Ormrod Councillor Nigel Benbow

MOTION NOW TO READ:

This council notes with disappointment the decision by Virgin Active to close the former Virgin gym in Battle Close, thereby passing on to the council the burden of monthly costs of nearly £27,000 on business rates and security measures to preventthe site from deteriorating further. The council resolves to:

- Continually review options for very short term use
- Request Cabinet approve long term alternative uses, including housing

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COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2018 NOTICE OF MOTION

Conservative amendment

Supporting our Little Leagues Organised sport is a vital resource for the children of our borough to support their continued good health and development. The government childhood obesity plan from January 2017 outlined that nearly a third of children aged 2 to 15 are now overweight or obese and younger generations are becoming obese at earlier ages and staying obese for longer. Organised sport is seen as a vital part of tackling childhood obesity and this is also reflected in Merton's own plan. However, Merton's long running and popular volunteer-led Little Leagues that provide free football to local children are potentially facing new charges for use of our public parks. These charges will put pressure on volunteers and could lead to charges for parents that could discourage participation in organised physical activity outside of school. This council notes that:

- The Merton council report in March 2017 'Tackling childhood obesity together' outlined the importance of organised physical activity for the children of the borough.
<https://news.merton.gov.uk/2017/03/13/tackling-childhood-obesitytogether/>
- The Raynes Park Little League is a voluntary organisation that has been serving the residents of Merton, providing free organised football based solely on voluntary contributions and is this year celebrating 50 years as part of the lifeblood of this borough.
- The volunteers for all our Merton Little Leagues past and present do an important job and should be supported by the London Borough of Merton and its elected representatives to continue their work.
- That the contractor IDVerde is proposing new charges for Little Leagues to use our parks that are yet to be confirmed and charges for the Raynes Park Little League could be as much as £4000 a year with the potential for additional charges for use of the pavilion.

This Council calls on the Leader and Cabinet member to:

[Continue to commit that the Little Leagues are not charged for using Merton's parks.](#)

~~1. Agree the principle that our volunteer led Little Leagues should be able to use our parks without charge and for the benefit of the borough of Merton in any future contract.~~

~~2. Confirm with the current contractor IDVerde any charges to Little Leagues that will be due for use of parks and related facilities (such as the Pavilion in the St Joseph Hood memorial playing fields) in each year of Page 33 Agenda Item 7d the contract. These details should be provided to Little League no later than 18th July 2018.~~

~~3. To ensure Little Leagues do not incur any financial penalty from any new charges for our parks and related facilities and can continue to run on the basis of voluntary contributions during the current contract period, Merton council will pursue one or more of the following routes:~~

- ~~• Negotiate with IDVerde a zero rate charge for Little Leagues for use of our parks and related facilities for the duration of the contract.~~

~~• Meet the cost of any charges for the use of our parks and related facilities directly through council funds for the full duration of the contract.~~

~~• Secure through the council sufficient sponsorship for Little Leagues to cover all costs incurred through the IDVerde contract for the full duration of the contract and meet any shortfall through council funds if the council is unable to secure sufficient sponsorship.~~

~~4. Ensure that before any further charges are implemented for the use of our parks anywhere in Merton or if our parks are monetised in any other way, that those proposals and details of the amount of any charges are brought to councillors and are scrutinised and debated either at full council or through the appropriate scrutiny committee at least a year in advance of implementation.~~

Motion now to read:

Supporting our Little Leagues Organised sport is a vital resource for the children of our borough to support their continued good health and development. The government childhood obesity plan from January 2017 outlined that nearly a third of children aged 2 to 15 are now overweight or obese and younger generations are becoming obese at earlier ages and staying obese for longer. Organised sport is seen as a vital part of tackling childhood obesity and this is also reflected in Merton's own plan. However, Merton's long running and popular volunteer-led Little Leagues that provide free football to local children are potentially facing new charges for use of our public parks. These charges will put pressure on volunteers and could lead to charges for parents that could discourage participation in organised physical activity outside of school. This council notes that:

- The Merton council report in March 2017 'Tackling childhood obesity together' outlined the importance of organised physical activity for the children of the borough.

<https://news.merton.gov.uk/2017/03/13/tackling-childhood-obesitytogether/>

- The Raynes Park Little League is a voluntary organisation that has been serving the residents of Merton, providing free organised football based solely on voluntary contributions and is this year celebrating 50 years as part of the lifeblood of this borough.

- The volunteers for all our Merton Little Leagues past and present do an important job and should be supported by the London Borough of Merton and its elected representatives to continue their work.

- That the contractor IDVerde is proposing new charges for Little Leagues to use our parks that are yet to be confirmed and charges for the Raynes Park Little League could be as much as £4000 a year with the potential for additional charges for use of the pavilion.

This Council calls on the Leader and Cabinet member to:

Continue to commit that the Little Leagues are not charged for using Merton's parks.

COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2018 NOTICE OF MOTION

LABOUR AMENDMENT

Supporting our Little Leagues

~~Organised sport is a vital resource for the children of our borough to support their continued good health and development. The government childhood obesity plan from January 2017 outlined that nearly a third of children aged 2 to 15 are now overweight or obese and younger generations are becoming obese at earlier ages and staying obese for longer. Organised sport is seen as a vital part of tackling childhood obesity and this is also reflected in Merton's own plan. However, Merton's long running and popular volunteer-led Little Leagues that provides free football to local children at low annual subscription rates are potentially facing new charges for use of our public parks because 8 years of austerity measures by the Tory government and previously the Lib Dem-Tory coalition, have forced Merton to follow the lead of councils like Liberal Democrat-controlled Sutton, in outsourcing their parks management services to contractor idverde. These charges will put pressure on volunteers and could lead to charges for parents that could discourage participation in organised physical activity outside of school.~~

This council notes that:

- The Merton council report in March 2017 'Tackling childhood obesity together' outlined the importance of organised physical activity for the children of the borough.
<https://news.merton.gov.uk/2017/03/13/tackling-childhood-obesitytogether/>
- The ~~Raynes Park~~ Little Leagues is a voluntary-volunteer-led organisation that has been serving the residents of Merton, providing ~~free~~ organised football ~~based solely on voluntary contributions at low subscription rates.~~ and is this year celebrating 50 years as part of the lifeblood of this borough.
 - Merton council has historically supported Little Leagues by offering use of the parks for free whilst other boroughs including Sutton have historically charged, and by identifying sponsorship opportunities
 - Due to successive and severe cuts to Merton council from Conservative and Liberal Democrat governments, it has to outsource some services which can impact on the offer to residents in the borough
 - Merton has joined Liberal Democrat-controlled Sutton in working with contractor idverde to provide park management services
- The volunteers for all our Merton Little Leagues past and present do an important job and should be are supported by the London Borough of Merton

and its elected representatives to continue their work.

~~• That the contractor IDVerde is proposing new charges for Little Leagues to use our parks that are yet to be confirmed and charges for the Raynes Park Little League could be as much as £4000 a year with the potential for additional charges for use of the pavilion.~~

This Council calls on the Leader and Cabinet member to:

1. Agree the principle that our volunteer-led Little Leagues should be able to continue use our parks ~~without charge and~~ for the benefit of the borough of Merton in any future contract.

2. ~~Confirm with the Urge~~ current contractor IDVerde any charges to draw up clear Service Level Agreements with Little Leagues ~~that will be due for use of parks and related facilities (such as the Pavilion in the St Joseph Hood memorial playing fields) in each year of the contract. These to ensure fees are constant and remain constant .details should be provided to Little League no later than 18th July 2018.~~

3. ~~E~~To ensure ~~Little Leagues do not incur any financial penalty from any new all~~ charges to Little Leagues for our parks and related facilities ~~and can continue to run on the basis of voluntary contributions during the current contract period, Merton council will pursue one or more of the following routes:are reasonable and itemised so it is clear what it being paid for.~~

~~• Negotiate with IDVerde a zero rate charge for Little Leagues for use of our parks and related facilities for the duration of the contract.~~

~~• Meet the cost of any charges for the use of our parks and related facilities directly through council funds for the full duration of the contract.~~

4. Continue to support the Little Leagues in identifying and securing sponsorship opportunities

~~• Secure through the council sufficient sponsorship for Little Leagues to cover all costs incurred through the IDVerde contract for the full duration of the contract and meet any shortfall through council funds if the council is unable to secure sufficient sponsorship.~~

4. Ensure that before any further charges are implemented for the use of our parks anywhere in Merton or if our parks are monetised in any other way, that these proposals and details of the amount of any charges are brought to councillors and are scrutinised and debated either at full council or through the appropriate scrutiny committee at least a year in advance of implementation.

Councillor Hina Bokhari Councillor Carl Quilliam Councillor Eloise Bailey

MOTION SHOULD NOW READ:

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Merton's long running and popular volunteer-led Little Leagues that provides football to local children at low annual subscription rates are potentially facing charges for use of public parks because 8 years of austerity measures by the Tory government and previously the Lib Dem-Tory coalition, have forced Merton to follow

the lead of councils like Liberal Democrat-controlled Sutton, in outsourcing their parks management services to contractor idverde.

This council notes that:

- The Merton council report in March 2017 'Tackling childhood obesity together' outlined the importance of organised physical activity for the children of the borough.
<https://news.merton.gov.uk/2017/03/13/tackling-childhood-obesitytogether/>
- The Little Leagues is a volunteer-led organisation that has been serving the residents of Merton, providing organised football at low subscription rates, and is this year celebrating 50 years as part of the lifeblood of this borough.
- Merton council has historically supported Little Leagues by offering use of the parks for free whilst other boroughs including Sutton have historically charged, and by identifying sponsorship opportunities
- Due to successive and severe cuts to Merton council from Conservative and Liberal Democrat governments, it has to outsource some services which can impact on the offer to residents in the borough
- Merton has joined Liberal Democrat-controlled Sutton in working with contractor idverde to provide park management services
- The volunteers for all our Merton Little Leagues past and present do an important job and are supported by the London Borough of Merton and its elected representatives to continue their work.

This Council calls on the Leader and Cabinet member to:

1. Agree the principle that our volunteer-led Little Leagues should be able to continue use our parks for the benefit of the borough of Merton in any future contract.
2. Urge current contractor IDVerde to draw up clear Service Level Agreements with Little Leagues to ensure fees are constant and remain constant .
3. Ensure all charges to Little Leagues for our parks and related facilities are reasonable and itemised so it is clear what it being paid for.
4. Continue to support the Little Leagues in identifying and securing sponsorship opportunities

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COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2018
NOTICE OF MOTION

LABOUR AMENDMENT

This Council recognises that the decision ~~made by~~forced on the Mayor of London, as a result of the government's £1 billion cut in funding for the Metropolitan Police, to close Wimbledon Police Station ~~is deeply damaging for the local community and is detrimental to~~could influence the wellbeing of the residents of the London Borough of Merton. ~~This~~The government's rash, poorly thought out decision to slash funding to the Metropolitan Police, is totally opposed by local residents who wish to see Wimbledon Police Station remain open. This Council therefore resolves to ~~request that the Leader and Cabinet:~~

- Appeal to the government to sSave Wimbledon Police Station from closure by buying the land from City Hall ~~itself~~ and seeking to lease it back to the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC).
- Resist any further cuts to services in Merton that would be associated to making ~~Make~~ provision in the Medium Term Financial Strategy for the acquisition of the Police Station and associated running costs.

Cllr Oonagh Moulton Cllr Daniel Holden Cllr David Simpson

MOTION NOW TO READ:

This Council recognises that the decision forced on the Mayor of London, as a result of the government's £1 billion cut in funding for the Metropolitan Police, to close Wimbledon Police Station could influence the effective and efficient policing of the London Borough of Merton. The government's rash, poorly thought out decision to slash funding to the Metropolitan Police, is totally opposed by local residents who wish to see Wimbledon Police Station remain open. This Council therefore resolves to:

- Appeal to the government to save Wimbledon Police Station from closure by buying the land from City Hall itself and seeking to lease it back to the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC).
- Resist any further cuts to services in Merton that would be associated to making provision in the Medium Term Financial Strategy for the acquisition of the Police Station and associated running costs.

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COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2018 NOTICE OF MOTION

LABOUR AMENDMENT

This council notes that judgment ~~is currently pending in~~ has yet to be handed down on the judicial review ~~disputing the legality of around~~ the Mayor of London's consultation on ~~closing over half the future~~ of London's police stations following the government's £1 billion cut in funding for the Metropolitan Police.

~~In light of~~ Given this uncertainty and the recent changes to policing in Merton, ~~and in particular the Mayor's confirmation of his plan to close Wimbledon police station,~~ the Council is mindful of the fact that the Overview and Scrutiny Commission has responsibility for the scrutiny of crime and disorder in Merton, and that the Commission invites the Borough Commander to attend twice a year to present the latest crime statistics and to answer questions on crime and policing. The council is aware that the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny, Cllr Peter Southgate, has extended an invitation to Chief Superintendent, Sally Benatar, Borough Commander of the 4-borough Borough Commander Unit (BCU) to attend the Commission's meeting of 19 September. Council, congratulates the Commission on its work on policing and urges the Commission to continue to monitor ~~calls upon the Cabinet to establish an officer resourced cross party working group to monitor and mitigate~~ the impact of changes to local policing including: the planned closure of Wimbledon police station; the creation of a merged BCU and the resultant; ~~the~~ loss of ~~the a~~ borough police commander ~~for Merton. ; and~~ Council resolves to urge the Commission to continue to look into reductions in borough police numbers that are unwise at a time of increasing terrorism. Scrutiny challenges the police while also recognising that the police service and the Mayor of London face desperate challenges as a result of government austerity cuts.

~~This group will be tasked with co-ordinating genuine engagement in the future of local policing, including a strong and innovative response to the re-run of the Mayor's consultation on police station closures, should the judicial review challenge be successful.~~

Cllr Paul Kohler Cllr Anthony Fairclough Cllr Simon McGrath

MOTION NOW TO READ:

This council notes that judgment has yet to be handed down on the judicial review around the Mayor of London's consultation on the future of London's police stations following the government's £1 billion cut in funding for the Metropolitan Police.

Given this uncertainty and the recent changes to policing in Merton, the Council is mindful of the fact that the Overview and Scrutiny Commission has responsibility for

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the scrutiny of crime and disorder in Merton, and that the Commission invites the Borough Commander to attend twice a year to present the latest crime statistics and to answer questions on crime and policing. The council is aware that the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny, Cllr Peter Southgate, has extended an invitation to Chief Superintendent, Sally Benatar, Borough Commander of the 4-borough Borough Commander Unit (BCU) to attend the Commission's meeting of 19 September. Council, congratulates the Commission on it's work on policing and urges the Commission to continue to monitor the impact of changes to local policing including: the planned closure of Wimbledon police station; the creation of a merged BCU and the resultant loss of a borough police commander for Merton. Council resolves to urge the Commission to continue to look into reductions in borough police numbers that are unwise at a time of increasing terrorism. Scrutiny challenges the police while also recognising that the police service and the Mayor of London face desperate challenges as a result of government austerity cuts.

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