

Merton Council Council

5 February 2020

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COUNCIL MEETING – 5 FEBRUARY 2020

NOTICE OF STRATEGIC MOTION – WIMBLEDON POLICE STATION

Council notes:

- 1) In 2018, in response to Government cuts to the Metropolitan Police budget, the Mayor of London conducted a review of the Met's entire estate and subsequently concluded that Wimbledon Police station would be closed and the site sold.
- 2) The Mayor's decision was reversed by the High Court in *R (Kohler) v MOPAC* following a Judicial Review application crowd funded, primarily, by the residents of Wimbledon.
- 3) Because of this, Wimbledon police station currently remains open to the public for the reporting of crime, unlike 36 other police stations across London that have now been sold, waiting to be sold off, mothballed or otherwise had their front desks closed in the wake of the Mayor of London's review. However no statement on Wimbledon police station's long term future has yet been made.
- 4) The BCU Commander Chief Superintendent Sally Benatar reported to the OSC on 25 April 2019 that, following the amalgamation of the Merton, Wandsworth, Richmond and Kingston BCUs and "11 months of working at greater scale across the boroughs", an internal review was taking place that included the possibility that Wimbledon Police station would be retained in the long term.

Council welcomes: the statement in her report by Leonie Cooper, London Assembly Member for Merton & Wandsworth at the Wimbledon Community Forum, on Wednesday 29 January that "[t]here is no plan to close Wimbledon Police Station" and her further suggestion that its long term future is now secure.

Council resolves: to ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Mayor of London for confirmation that Wimbledon Police station will not be sold and its long term future is now secure.

Councillor Paul Kohler Councillor Hina Bokhari Councillor Anthony Fairclough

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COUNCIL 5th FEBRUARY 2020

NOTICE OF MOTION

Merton is a place that welcomes those from around the world. We value the enormous contributions that refugees and migrants have made, and continue to make to the borough. Declaring Merton to be a “Borough of Sanctuary” would reaffirm Merton’s commitment to the borough’s refugee and migrant communities.

Council calls on cabinet to declare Merton to be a “Borough of Sanctuary”; to continue to work with organisations in the borough who support refugees and asylum seekers in the borough, to work with community groups to harness public support to help and support refugee, migrant and asylum seekers in Merton, and to continue to celebrate the contribution of refugee and migrant communities to Merton and challenge anti-refugee and anti-migrant attitudes wherever they are found.

CLLR EDITH MACAULEY CLLR REBECCA LANNING CLLR LAXMI ATTAWAR

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COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY 5th FEBRUARY 2020

NOTICE OF MOTION

This council recognises that the decision made by the Labour Mayor of London to close Wimbledon Police Station is deeply damaging to the safety and security of people across the borough. Since 2016 Mayor Khan has presided over a huge increase in crime and has failed to protect Londoners. Council notes that under Mayor Khan:

- Knife crime has increased by 52%;
- Robbery has increased by 59%;
- Gun crime has increased by 30%.

Whilst crime has risen and police numbers have fallen by 30%, Mayor Khan has spent £21 million on more City Hall employees, £9.4 million on PR and £700,000 on beach parties.

Council therefore condemns the failing policies of Mayor Khan and recognises that change is needed in City Hall. Furthermore council fully endorses the plans of the Conservative government to increase police numbers in London by c.6000, and recognises that this offers the only real chance to save Wimbledon Police Station. Council also congratulates Stephen Hammond MP for his work to secure its future.

Cllr Nick McLean

Cllr James Holmes

Cllr Edward Gretton

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