

Merton Council

Council

2 April 2014

Supplementary agenda

- 7 (c) Strategic theme: Motions
 - (i) Strategic theme: Motions Conservative 1 – 2
 - (ii) Strategic theme: Motions Labour 3 – 4

- 15. Reports from Community Forums
 - The further Community Forums reports will be circulated in advance of the meeting.*
 - (a) Raynes Park Community Forum Report 5 – 8

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COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 2 APRIL 2014

MOTION - STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE – HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES WITH A FOCUS ON PUBLIC HEALTH

This Council continues to welcome the transfer of Public Health functions to local authorities such as Merton.

A year on from this change, this Council recognises the opportunities and benefits for the health of the borough's residents of having the Director of Public Health in a senior managerial role within the council. Since the transition of Public Health to local authorities in April 2013 and the visible involvement of the Director of Public Health and her team across council departments, the profile of Public Health has been raised and is beginning to have an influence on how council services could be delivered or targeted to improve health outcomes.

However, this Council notes that, despite strong and clear recommendations from the government and organisations such as the Faculty of Public Health, Merton's Director of Public Health reports partly to the Director of Community and Housing rather than solely to the Chief Executive and is not a permanent member of the Corporate Management Team. Yet this is not the arrangement in the vast majority of councils.

This Council believes that, in order to maximise the potential of the changes to Public Health, it is important to ensure greater influence is exerted by the Director of Public Health, particularly given that, according to the latest Annual Residents' Survey, the vast majority of Merton residents (87%) are unaware of the Council's new responsibilities.

Therefore this Council resolves to reaffirm its strong commitment to improving the health of Merton residents, and especially of those in the east of the borough who often suffer more greatly from health inequalities and therefore a lower life expectancy, by requesting that the Cabinet and Chief Executive adopt best practice and make the Director of Public Health solely accountable to the Chief Executive with a permanent place on the Corporate Management Team, as happens in most other local authorities.

Councillor Margaret Brierly

Councillor Suzanne Grocott

Councillor Gilli Lewis-Lavender

Councillor Debbie Shears

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Agenda Item 7c (ii)

Labour Motion on the Strategic Theme

Council is appalled that the Conservative MP for Wimbledon, Mr Stephen Hammond, voted in favour of Clause 119 of the Care Bill which allows the Secretary of State, as the person who makes the final decision on hospital closures, to bypass local opposition to a hospital closure even if the hospital is performing well. Council notes that the sign heralding the promised £219m redevelopment of the hospital has recently been taken down and is concerned that by voting in favour of Clause 119 Mr Hammond has betrayed local people and the campaign to save St Helier Hospital.

Council calls on the Leader of the Council to write to Mr Hammond outlining council's deep disappointment that he voted in favour of new powers which, where another local hospital was in financial difficulty, could allow St Helier to be downgraded or closed despite the wishes of local people.

The motion is signed by John Dehaney, Stan Anderson and Dennis Pearce.

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Raynes Park Community Forum 13 March 2014 Chair's Report

The meeting was held in Raynes Park Library Hall, and chaired by Councillor Gilli Lewis-Lavender assisted by Chris Larkman, Chair of the Raynes Park Association. More than 50 residents attended, as well as seven other Merton Councillors, and officers from the council and its partners.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Station Embankment

Vinnie O'Connell from New-Leaf gave a presentation on the work carried out on the railway embankments. Network Rail had commissioned New-Leaf to make the improvements and they had worked in partnership with the Youth Offenders Team, local community groups and local residents. The presentation will be available on our website at <http://www.merton.gov.uk/community-living/communityforums/raynesparkcommunityforum.htm>

The New-Leaf team work with a range of volunteers to engage young people in horticulture. To date more than 600 young people have participated in a variety of projects with around 50 going on to get work in the field. More information about the work is available from <http://new-leaf.org.uk/>.

New-Leaf hope to deliver more projects with Network Rail including at Motspur Park but it helps if local communities lobby to have their stations included in the programme of works.

Residents at the meeting expressed their thanks to Vinnie for the work done in Raynes Park and for the informative presentation.

Raynes Park Enhancement Plan

Tony Edwards updated the Forum on the latest activity. Improvements on West Barnes Lane have been completed and Tony had brought 'before and after' photographs. Further improvements on Lambton Road would start on 24 March and take approximately ten days. Tony and Chris would be meeting with council officers on Friday 14 March to discuss what further improvements could be made and what funding is available.

Town Centre Parking

Chris updated the forum on events following a public meeting to discuss the council's proposals for changing parking arrangements in the town centre. Merton Council had proposed introducing pay and display meters on bays in Lambton and Walpole Road whilst introducing 20minutes free parking across all bays in the town centre. At the meeting many local businesses had objected to the proposal. As a result the council has postponed any changes until the autumn and will carry out further consultation. Chris said that the RPA would be carrying out a survey of local businesses and would be

bringing together businesses and residents to try and find a solution to parking issues. Gilli reported that Councillor Chris Edge had written to the Cabinet Member, Councillor Andrew Judge, to ask for a meeting.

In response to questions Chris confirmed that the extension of the Apostle's controlled parking zone will start shortly and a consultation on Cambridge Road will also be taking place.

Health

Dr Gibby reported Raynes Park is one of four pilot areas in London examining the confederation of practices. The pilot will test ways of working together more effectively including sharing resources. Dr Gibby also said that the work on the Nelson site was still on schedule for a spring 2015 opening and that the process for commissioning services would begin shortly. A market testing day had shown a lot of interest in delivering services.

Bal Chohan-Rai reported that Kingston Hospital will be holding an open day on Saturday 14 June. They have also launched a new website and would welcome any feedback. The website address is www.kingstonhospital.nhs.uk

After the success of the 'Love your Heart' event in February they are keen to provide more health awareness and education events. Bal would welcome any suggestions for issues that could be delivered. The CAB will be delivering advice sessions at the Lambton Road surgery on Tuesdays from 1-4pm.

Safer Neighbourhood Team Update

PC Lee Abberton provided an update on local policing. Following the restructure of local policing Lee is now the only dedicated officer for Raynes Park ward, along side a PCSO, and is now based at Morden police station. Other local teams have moved to Wimbledon station. Lee said that when he was not available the police could still be contacted through 999 or 101.

Lee reported that whilst burglary was 30% down on last year and overall crime was down 20%, vehicle crime has increased. Targeting of expensive cars had increased both theft from and theft of. A number of local cash points had been targeted with 'loop' systems to acquire both cards and PIN. The police have been working to persuade banks to install devices to block use of these loops. Lee also reported that a scam involving locksmith stickers on front doors had been identified and stopped. If residents see the stickers they should be removed.

Mega Recycle Challenge

Jane Alexander, Recycling Encouragement Manager for Merton Council, introduced the Mega Recycle Challenge. Jane will work in Merton for two years, funded by central government, to help increase the level of recycling and reduce the amount going to landfill. As part of this work the Mega Recycle challenge will be offering prizes to individuals and schools for increasing recycling. The challenge will be promoted door-to-door as well as with local community groups and schools. The challenge will launch on 24 March and

the first prizes will be given out in May. To find out more and to register to take part please see: <http://www.merton.gov.uk/megarecycle>

Merton Scrutiny Team

Rebecca Redman, Scrutiny Officer, Merton Council informed the forum that the council's Overview and Scrutiny panels are looking for issues to examine in detail during 2014/15. The scrutiny panels are made up of councillors that gather evidence from experts and local communities to investigate key issues. The four panels are:

- Sustainable Communities – housing, environment, transport, culture and enterprise
- Children and Young People – education, social care, youth services
- Healthier Communities and Older People – health and social care services
- Overview and Scrutiny Commission – safer and stronger communities, cross cutting and strategic themes.

To suggest topics for any of the panels you can complete an online form at <http://www.merton.gov.uk/council/decision-making/scrutiny.htm> or you can email scrutiny@merton.gov.uk

Planning Updates

Chris presented an update provided by Neil Milligan, Development Control Section Manager, Merton Council.

Access Self-storage are discharging the conditions on the Manuplastics site on Kingston Road. Progress may take place soon

Site on corner of *Coombe Lane and Durham Road* (block of flats) –Scheme appears to be underway with building activity taking place on the site
2A Amity Grove – a pre-application report issued for redevelopment to provide flats and a retail/commercial on ground. The applicant has carried out their own consultation so the public locally may be aware of this.

Rainbow Estate – no new information

In addition to Neil's update the forum was informed about the following planning issues:

Barkers chemist – have applied for permission for signage at a new shop

Mini-Hollands – Merton had missed out on the main funding but would still receive some additional monies.

Blockbuster – an interior design shop and café, Absolute Abode would be opening.

Kingston Road/The Chase – planning permission has been given for nine three-bedroom houses

Flat above the Edward Rayne – a change of use has been submitted for a private medical practice.

Open Forum

Keith Davis, Manager of Waitrose, introduced himself to the meeting. Keith said the store is now seeing more than 20,000 customers a week.

A question was asked about the use of the lesser sports field off Grand Drive. Kris Witherington, Merton Council, was asked to find out.

Chris confirmed at the Ride London-Surrey event would again come through Raynes Park, on Sunday 10 August. For more information please see <http://www.prudentialridelondon.co.uk/>

Dates of future meetings all at 7.15pm, in the Library Hall:

Wednesday 18 June 2014

Tuesday 30 September 2014

Tuesday 9 December 2014

Wednesday 25 March 2015