

Merton Council

Joint Consultative Committee with Ethnic Minority Organisations Agenda

Membership

Councillors: Edith Macauley MBE (Chair), Eloise Bailey, Omar Bush, Joan Henry, Laxmi Attawar

Substitute Members: Adam Bush, Hina Bokhari

Ethnic Minority Organisations

African Educational Cultural & Health Organisation (AECHO)

Deputy

Ahmadiyya Muslim Association

Asian Diabetic Support & Awareness Group

Asian Elderly Group of Merton

Asian Youth Association

BAME Voice

Bangladeshi Association of Merton

Deputy

Bengali Association of Merton

Deputy

Bengali Women's Association of Merton

British Muslim Association of Merton

Ethnic Minority Centre

Euro Bangla Federation

Deputy

London South West Chinese Community Association

Merton African Organisation

Merton Somali Community

Mitcham Filipino British Association

Deputy

Merton and Lambeth Citizen's Advice Bureau

Pakistan Cultural Association of Merton & Wandsworth

Pakistan Welfare Association

Deputy

Polish Family Association

Positive Network

South London Somali Community Association

South London Tamil Welfare Group

Victim Support Merton and Sutton

Wimbledon Mosque

Revd Mrs H Neale

Mr C.H.Nawaz

Mrs N. Shah

Mr M S Sheikh

Revd Mrs H Neale

Mr. N. Islam

Mr J Choudhury

Mr M Rahman

Mrs M Ahmed

Mr B. Afridi

Mrs Sabitri Ray

Dr Z Haque

Mr Q Anwar

Ms L Saltoon

Mr C J Lusack

Mr A. Ali

Ms A Colquhoun

Ms C Batallones

Mr M A Shah

Mr S U Sheikh

Mr Rizvi

Mr S Szczepanski

Ms G Salmon

Mr A Musse

Dr P Arumugaraasah

Mr A Morgan-Thorne

Mr Z Khan

Date: Wednesday 12 June 2019

Time: 7.15 pm

Venue: Council chamber - Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden SM4 5DX This is a public meeting and attendance by the public is encouraged and welcomed. For more information about the agenda please contact diversity@merton.gov.uk or telephone [020 8545 4637](tel:02085454637).

All Press contacts: communications@merton.gov.uk, 020 8545 3181

Joint Consultative Committee with Ethnic Minority Organisations Agenda

12 June 2019

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 1 | Declarations of Interest | |
| 2 | Apologies for Absence | |
| 3 | Minutes of previous meeting | 1 - 8 |
| 4 | Community Plan, Darren Tulley, Borough Commander, London Fire Brigade | 9 - 16 |
| 5 | Crime update - Inspector Robert Whitehead, Metropolitan Police Service | 17 - 24 |
| 6 | Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Voice - Revd Hannah Neale, Chair BAME Voice | 25 - 26 |
| 7 | Any Other Business | |

Note on declarations of interest

Members are advised to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting. If a pecuniary interest is declared they should withdraw from the meeting room during the whole of the consideration of that matter and must not participate in any vote on that matter. If members consider they should not participate because of a non-pecuniary interest which may give rise to a perception of bias, they should declare this, withdraw and not participate in consideration of the item. For further advice please speak with the Assistant Director of Corporate Governance.

JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WITH ETHNIC MINORITY
ORGANISATIONS
27 MARCH 2019

PRESENT Councillors Councillor Edith Macauley (in the Chair),
Councillor Eloise Bailey, Councillor Omar Bush,
Councillor Joan Henry and Councillor Marsie Skeete

Councillor Anderson, Councillor Akyigyina, Revd Neale,
Mr Sheikh, Mr Savage, Mr Siva, Mr Rajasingam, Ms Addai,
Dr Dawson, Ms Wiley, Ms Leacocu, Mr Poole, Ms Poole,
Ms Copeland, Mr Simpson

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda Item 1)

There were no declarations.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 2)

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Agenda Item 3)

Correction: Cllr Henry clarified that the Police knocked at a resident's door after an anonymous tip off.

The minutes were agreed.

4 ART THOU SPIRIT (ATS) FILM AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT
PROGRAMME- SABRINA AND JUSTIN POOLE, 3RE SOULS
PRODUCTION (Agenda Item 4)

Mr Poole gave an overview of the company. 3RE Souls is a film and video performance company. The performance programme is being delivered at Pollards Hill on Wednesday and Thursday and will be extended to Phipps Bridge. The company is working with young people to make a documentary (called the Problems We're Facing) on gun and youth crime. The documentary is available on Amazon TV and through community screening.

Funds generated from the project will be put in trust for the Young People for the future until they reach the age of 21.

The aim of the project is to keep up to date with the media and digital platforms and is working with the following associates:

- Friends of Pollards Hill
- PHCC – Pollards Hill Community Committee
- Pollards Hill Youth Centre
- Councillor Joan Henry
- Film Merton
- Grindworks Media Broadcasting
- Amazon Fire TV

The film tour will take place in June in association with Film Merton.

The company has embedded literacy and numeracy, creative writing, project management, sales and distribution and social inclusion. There is also a behavioural aspect to the programme. Having a mentor will provide participants with various skills including money management and financial independence.

The company aims to take 3 Young people on a youth exchange to the USA for 4 days, during a term holiday. Fundraising is being done to raise money also sponsorships are being sought. Donations and Community funding are also welcomed.

In the future the company aims to:

- Have ATS Programme available to the wider Merton
- Have an ATS Employability Programme for Adults
- Deliver an ATS Mentorship Programme to assist Disadvantaged and Disengaged youths in Merton
- To have a premises, which will be a Film Studio/media base, having apprenticeships available for young people age 16 – 25
- Having the ATS Programme as a Nationally recognised qualification, which will be portfolio based
- Having ATS Programme available to the rest of Wider London

Questions/Comments

Councillor Henry asked for more details about the Youth Exchange. Mr Poole replied that ATS wants to do a youth exchange and has a choice of 5 states. The aim is to integrate with other young people abroad.

Cllr Akyigyina asked how the young people will be selected. Mr Poole replied that it will be attendance based. The top 3 participants to show a positive attitude will be selected.

Cllr Anderson asked who will escort the young people. Mr Poole confirmed that a youth centre worker and two other adults working on the programme will accompany the young people.

Cllr Henry asked who will sponsor the trips abroad. – Mr Poole replied that fundraising is being done and ATS is contacting airlines for discounted air fares and accommodation. Community funding will also be used.

Revd Neale asked where the young people will come from. Mr Poole confirmed that they are members of the youth centre.

Cllr Bush commended the work and asked how younger people can be attracted to join the programme. Mr Poole confirmed that they are trying to do outreach work to increase the numbers.

Ms Copeland felt that the programme is ambitious and asked what the target number is that can realistically be worked with and how is the target reached. Mr Poole replied that the programme takes 90 hours to complete and can work with 5 to 25 people at a time.

Ms Copeland also asked how will ATS secure the Trust Fund and track the young people. Mr Poole explained that the funds will be in the parents' name and ATS will keep in regular contact with the family.

Cllr Macauley thanked Mr Poole and Ms Poole for their hard work and commitment to helping the borough's young people.

5 EARLY INTERVENTION PROJECT/ RESPONSIVE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TEAM (RECET)) - KEITH SHIPMAN, EDUCATION INCLUSION MANAGER (Agenda Item 5)

Keith Shipman introduced the item by firstly explaining about Contextual Safeguarding. It is defined as:

“An approach to understanding, and responding to, young people’s experiences of significant harm beyond their families.

Different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse.

Parents and carers have little influence over these contexts, and young people’s experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine parent-child relationships.” Carlene Firmin, 2017

He explained that Contextual Safeguarding looks at how young people put themselves at risk. It is about looking at the risks in their neighbourhood, schools and community. Young people are victims and need help.

Mr Shipman gave an overview of the work being done in the borough. He added that Merton has secured funding for one year to undertake early intervention work and has established the Responsive Community Engagement Team (Re-CET).

Where there is evidence of:

- Antisocial behaviour affecting community sites
- High volume incidents in a single site
- Spikes in offences (e.g. moped theft or shoplifting)
- Group based / territorial serious youth violence

Re-CET will respond by engaging young people through groups delivered on an open access basis but referrals for intervention will be prioritised to those most vulnerable to involvement in crime, in particular 10 – 14 year old boys with the following concerns / presenting needs:

- Missing episodes
- Excluded from school
- Displaying ASB / early involvement in offending
- Looked After Children / Child Protect / Child In Need – particularly with older family members involved in crime

The team will deliver a range of interventions involving restorative justice, community engagement, 'call-ins', incentive packages and youth work. The aim is to engage young people early alongside communities and those impacted.

Mr Shipman asked the JCC:

1. How well are these risks understood in your communities?
2. How well can you/we support young people and reduce their risk of becoming victims?

Questions/ Comments

Cllr Akyigyina asked what will happen after 12 months and how many young people will the project work with. Mr Shipman replied that the learning will be reviewed and used to inform bids for further funding. There will still be a detached team. The library project had 30 children but it will depend upon the issues as to how many young people that the team works with. It will not be a large group, just the most risky young people.

Emma Wiley asked how will referrals be made and whether the Police can make referrals. Mr Shipman replied that the Locations Board takes information from communities about areas of concern and councillors raise concerns also. The Anti-Social Behaviour Panel takes referrals from the Police and community.

Cllr Anderson asked if parents are involved. Mr Shipman replied that this project is just for young people. The aim is to get the young people back with their parents.

Cllr Henry commented that the problems had reduced due to the approach and thanked Mr Shipman and his team for all their hard work.

Revd Neale commented that the programme is almost too late to help some young people and the work really needed to start earlier. She also asked whether a small group could be community connectors to train others. Mr Shipman replied that there are junior groups, work is done with schools and Bond Road is the main work for early help. He added that the community connectors is a good idea as young people can influence each other well.

Cllr Macauley asked if the project will liaise with the Youth Court after community service and after their orders. Mr Shipman replied that is done. Unique Talent run workshops at the youth clubs. He added that getting the right young people when they are ready can be good role models.

Cllr Macauley asked when there is a Conditional Discharge with a 12 month period can the project engage with the young person. Mr Shipman confirmed that the team would indeed work with them.

Mr Savage asked if the small numbers will make a difference. Mr Shipman asked if crime is risky. He said that there is a perception that it is. Knife crime is going up but is still lower than the 1990s. Recorded crime and experience of crime is different. He added that the team is trying to find out if it will work. Evidence based interventions work for 30%-40% of the time. Engaging young people is key and can change behaviour. If there are other influences this has an impact. Triage is being used more but the young people are not going on to offend. There are lots of factors contributing to reducing youth offending.

Mr Sheikh commented that the presentation and the work of the team was interesting and asked if Mr Shipman would like to visit Wimbledon Mosque. Mr Shipman replied that he would like to do so.

6 JCC MEMBERSHIP - EVERETH WILLIS, EQUALITY AND COMMUNITY COHESION OFFICER (Agenda Item 6)

Evereth Willis presented a report firstly outlining concerns about the low number of representatives attending the JCC meeting and secondly recommending that the Polish Family Association is formally made a member of the JCC.

There was much discussion about the low turnout at meetings.

Mr Sheikh commented that he has had concerns for many years regarding the low turnout and he has been involved since the beginning. He suggested that a letter be sent to ask if organisations still want to be members of the JCC and ask them to attend meetings. If no response is received they should be taken off the list.

Emma Wiley commented that there seems to be no interest in politics and suggested that there may need to be some work around education and outreach to encourage people to get involved.

Revd Neale commented that part of the problem is that the community does not know how the issues that they've raised are being taken forward. People may be more willing to come to meetings if they received feedback and could see progress.

Mr Savage agreed with Revd Neale's comments and added that everyone needed to work together.

Cllr Macauley commented that many of the BAME organisations had folded over the years and encouraged BAME Voice member organisations to attend the JCC also.

Cllr Akyigyina commented that people were fed up with the council's 'Tick-Box' approach. She suggested that the engagement is not genuine and the organisations don't get the help and support that they need or real feedback. They need to see progress.

Cllr Macauley commented that funding has been an issue and small groups are struggling.

Revd Neale commented that the funding goes to the larger organisations who then come to the smaller BAME organisations in order to deliver their funding objectives and this needed to change.

Resolved: To admit the Polish Family Association to the JCC membership.

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda Item 7)

Cllr Macauley informed the meeting that the Wimbledon Prowler has been caught and charged.

Cllr Henry introduced Grace Addai. Grace will run a training course working with the college to deliver courses for 19 years plus. She is looking to deliver courses in Pollards Hill and aims to provide employment opportunities. On 8 April there is a course for 5 days for local unemployed residents.

Emma Wiley informed the meeting about a politics workshop taking place on Tuesday 8 October to encourage BAME women to get involved in politics.

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SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PLAN 2019-25

Page 9

Joint Consultative Committee for Ethnic Minorities

Sponsor: Darren Tulley - Borough Commander London Fire Brigade

Contact: Matthew Snelling - Policy, Strategy and Partnerships Team

Agenda Item 4

BACKGROUND

- Replacing the previous Community Plan, which ran from 2013-2019
- Being developed by the Merton Partnership

Page 10



PURPOSE

- To set out the Merton Partnership's long term ambition for the borough
- To increase social capital across the borough
- To embed the 'Think Family' approach across the Merton Partnership
- Make the plan easily accessible to residents, councillors, and officers



OUR APPROACH

- We are undertaking extensive engagement with residents, voluntary groups, community organisations, and the Merton Partnership

Page 12

We are using proxy indicators to build a picture of social capital across the borough

The plan will have an online presence which will be updated throughout the plan's lifetime

- We will update the plan regularly with examples of 'You Said, We Did,' allowing for successes to be measured
- We hope that identifying opportunities to build social capital can also help to guide possible options to use Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies.

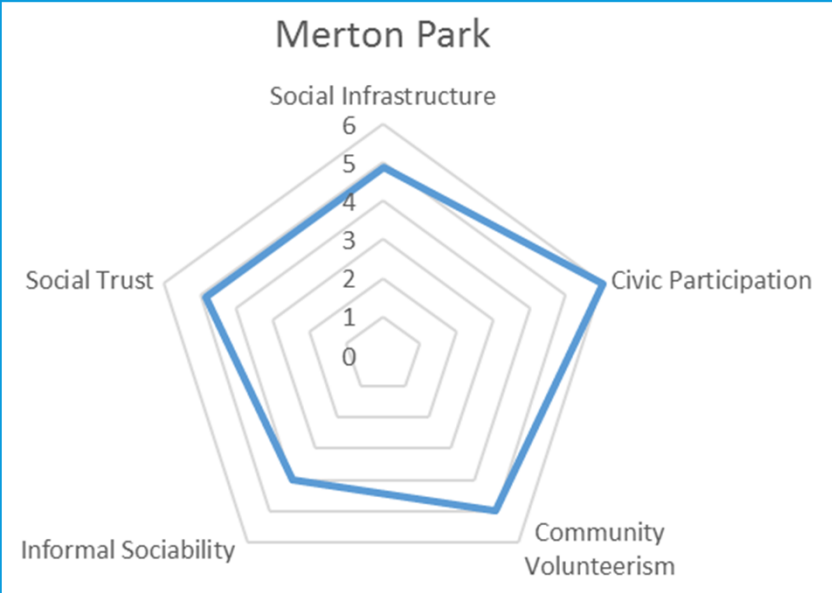
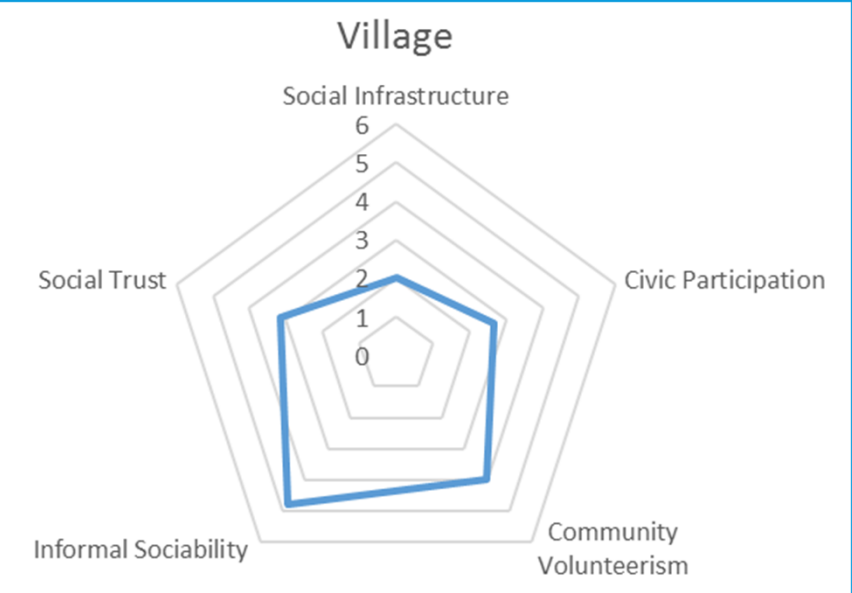
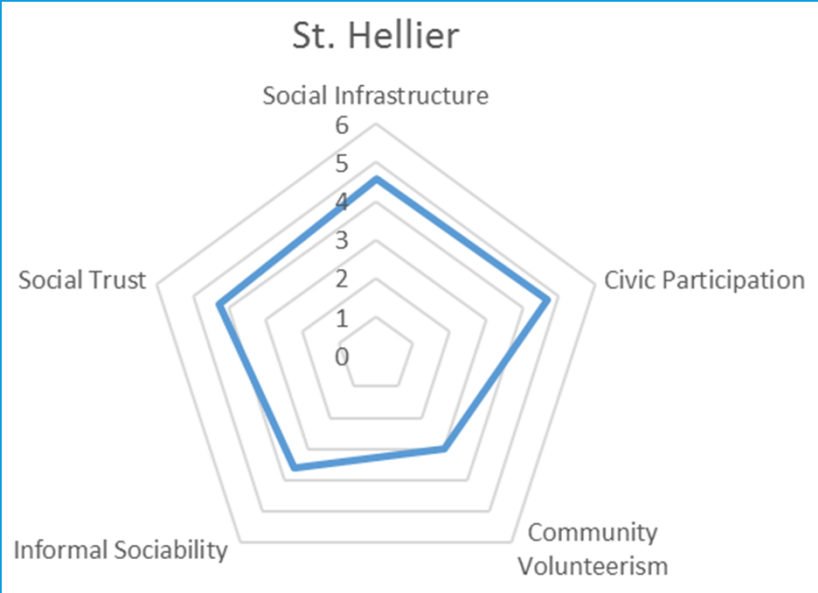
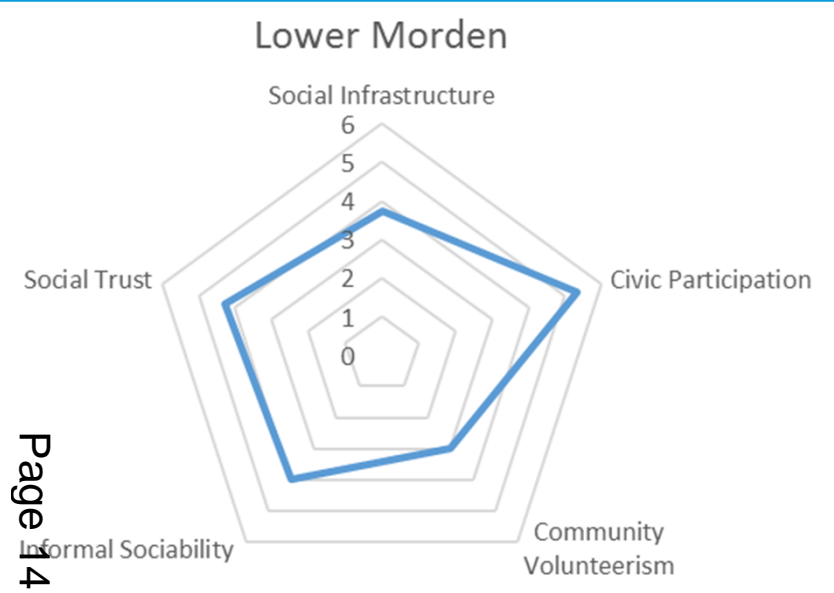


ENGAGEMENT

- Children and Young People's Survey - has returned 1,280 responses
- Annual Residents Survey - will return 1,000 responses
- Targeted Engagement with 'seldom listened to' groups
- Workshop with voluntary sector and community groups
- Engagement with Merton Partnership – via thematic networks, away day, and conference



Analysis of wards shows different areas have different strength



WHAT ARE WE ASKING?

- We would like the JCC to:
- Highlight any examples of projects which promote or build social capital
- Outline how the Board engages with the subsidiary groups and organisations that feed into it and any engagement channels that could be used to support the development of the Sustainable Communities Plan;
- Consider whether there are any places or communities they wish to prioritise for the engagement work with hard to reach groups and suggest any channels or mechanisms for how to engage with them; and
- Note the progress so far on the development of a new Sustainable Communities Plan for the borough and the links that can be built with the Community Cohesion Strategy, as well as any other relevant plans.

Thank you

Contact: Matthew Snelling (matthew.snelling@merton.gov.uk)

JCC update

General Performance (To 31.04.2019 – current rolling 12mth)

Crime Type	Offences	Difference from Previous 12 months
Total Crime	14094	13805 +2%
Burglary	1677	1425 +18%
Theft from M/V	1128	1056 +7%
Theft of M/V	519	538 -4%
Violence against the person	3836	3490 +10%
Robbery of the person	344	335 +3%

Total notifiable offences across Merton is up compared to the previous twelve months.

Across all of MPS, total notifiable offences of crime are up 4.6% compared with the previous rolling year.

Burglary is up across the borough. There is work ongoing to identify any trends. (See chart at bottom).

Emergency call performance across VW is 85.1% of I grades within 15 minutes for January-March. This compares with 83.9% for the whole BCU.

Neighbourhood DWO staffing across the strand has continued to been a challenge. Officers have been provided on attachment to safeguarding strand. These are expected to end in September. There is a predicted vacancy in West Barnes ward and work is ongoing to fill this post. One officer remains long term sick. Three PCSOs are long term restricted. One officer is currently on Maternity leave.

We are currently at correct Sgt strength (six Sgts).

When any officer is posted to the Merton NPT, I consider skills, experience, and where I feel the need is greatest. I also consider expected future vacancies when looking at where I need to post an officer.

There have been a number of high profile violent incidents in the borough. This has led to an increased presence of officers in both uniform and plain clothes operations.

There have also been several S60 authorisations in an effort to reduce the repercussions from the more serious matters.

There have been very heavy aid commitments from all staff on the BCU. This included Extinction rebellion, knife crime / violence operations (which can be across all of the

MPS) and there is a very large resource requirement for Trump (including Insp Whitehead!).

Such requests in addition to critical incidents and support for other risk areas of the BCU has led to limited time available to support the work that has been done in some neighbourhoods.

Sector reports.

Wimbledon

Hugely positive result in arresting the Op Coppi burglar as widely publicised. He was charged with numerous offences and awaits trial. This has had a very positive impact on the local community with one resident stating "Once he was arrested I was finally able to sleep at night".

Additional patrols in place to combat burglary in Wimbledon Park and Wimbledon Village. This has led to several arrests for burglaries and several suspects who have been identified and circulated as wanted.

A suspect for multiple offences of Burglary / Theft of post was identified and charged with several offences. Substantial target hardening has reduced this crime trend but there has been a significant increase in the Burglary figures. Since this arrest however cases have reduced.

A week of action with regards to the Beggars in Wimbledon Town Centre in partnership with Merton CCTV and council ASB unit. Resulted in 15 Community Protection Warnings. Two of these were not complied with and these individuals were given Community Protection Notices. Each beggar was given an information sheet regarding where to get help with housing and food.

A prolific graffiti artist was arrested and charged with 6 counts of graffiti in the town centre. Currently in prison for criminal damage and failing to comply with CPN.

There is still no significant update regarding Wimbledon police station. It remains a 24 hour front office.

Morden

We are still awaiting an update from building services re a police base / facility in Morden. I am still hopeful of a return to Crown parade but this is currently with contractual services.

Officers have been completing proactive operations regarding theft of catalytic converters over the last few months.

There have also been proactive operations regarding a drugs address as well as a venue that was being used as a squat.

Two suspects stopped and searched as a result of excellent work by Lower Morden officers which has identified a team of Burglars. This has led to charges for 19 burglary related offences across the MPS and Surrey.

Mitcham

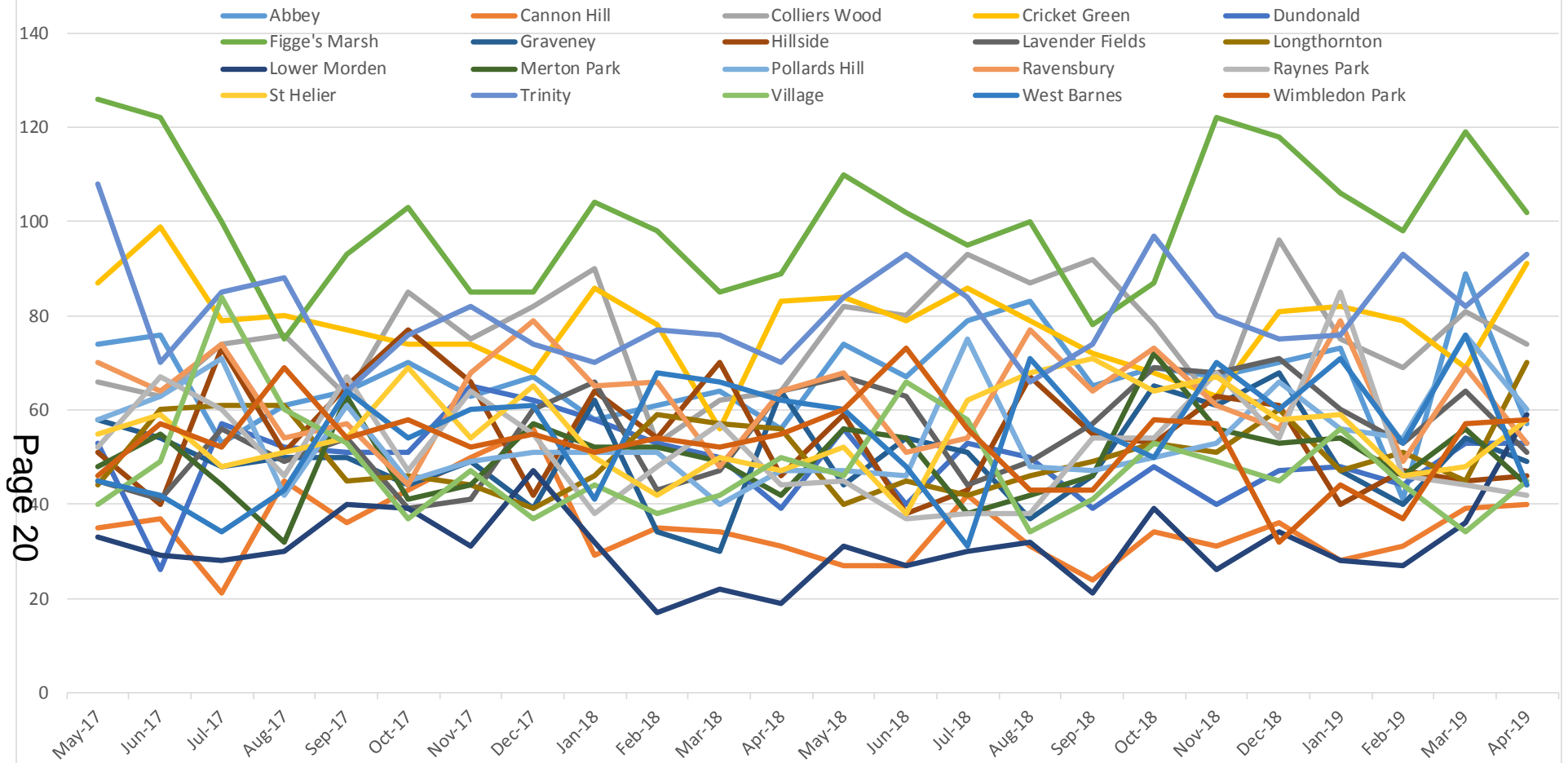
Several further vehicles have been seized in combination with the council fly tipping team.

Work continues to make use of stop and search and other powers in Mitcham town centre. This also includes work with Kingdom to gain assistance in support of the PSPO.

A prolific offender has been identified and charged with in excess of 20 theft from motor vehicle offences.

Several warrants have been executed relating to different types of offence including drugs and abstracting electricity.

Monthly Burglaries by ward over 2 years



Hate crime figures for the Borough of Merton

Category	2018	2019
Racist	253	240
Faith	31	32
Anti-Semitic	1	2
Islamophobic	22	26
Homophobic	30	31
Transgender	11	10
Disability	6	10
Total	331	298

As can be seen there has been a reduction in the number of reports of hate crimes across the borough on the rolling year.

It should be noted that some allegations can be categorised as more than one form of hate incident so the total number is not the sum of all the allegations above.

Some of the incidents may be classified as a hate crime incident but may not be substantive crimes.

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Who we are

With the support of the London Borough of Merton, the Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic Voice (BAME VOICE), a collective of some 10 BAME organisations, was formed in 2016 as an independent body to consolidate, unify and strengthen the rapidly declining local minority ethnic voluntary and community sector. Registered as a Charity Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 10 July 2017, we seek to coordinate the BAME communities' strategic voice, ensuring that we are actively involved in decision making in Merton and, that, local service providers recognise and meet our needs. We are a resource body for all organisations and communities in Merton and elsewhere. We are volunteer led and currently have no paid staff.

What we do

We provide ongoing Capacity Building for our member organisations; appoint BAME representatives to strategic boards and forums; coordinate a range of BAME services and activities; promote, organise and facilitate co-operation and partnership working to advance equality of opportunity. We coordinate events which foster greater understanding and cohesion among people from Merton's diverse backgrounds.

Why we do it

The borough's growing diversity is complex and interesting but brings challenges. Statistics show that Merton is relatively wealthy, however, these statistics hide pockets of deprivation which can lead to social exclusion, particularly in the east of the borough where most BAME residents live.

Poverty and social inequality are two key factors in preventing social integration and presents particular challenges for incomers. Combined with feelings of being powerless to change their situation, these factors can all contribute to poor health outcomes. Over the long term this can lead to increased infections, diabetes, high blood pressure, heart attack, mental health, alcohol and drug abuse, COPD. With the projected increase in Merton's BAME population, at a time when finances are becoming more scarce, community relations could become stressed with increased health risks.

BAME VOICE will ensure that supporting BAME organisations and communities are a part of the conversations which influence policy and strategies and which affect the lives of Merton residents especially in East Merton.

What more needs to be done

In our presentation, we will demonstrate why our services are needed; what we have achieved so far; current issues facing BAME organisations & their communities and what more needs to be done.

