

MITCHAM COMMUNITY FORUM
25 FEBRUARY 2021

(7.15 pm - 9.15 pm)

PRESENT Councillors Councillor David Chung (in the Chair),

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (Agenda Item 1)

The meeting was held via Zoom, and chaired by Councillor David Chung. 10 residents and two councillors attended on Zoom with 93 additional views on YouTube. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained how the meeting would work.

2 LONDON ASSEMBLY UPDATE (Agenda Item 2)

Leonie Cooper, Assembly Member for Merton and Wandsworth, provided an update on the work of the London Assembly. It has been a difficult time for everyone with many families suffering from bereavement. Leonie paid tribute to staff in Merton, NHS, City Hall, Police and Fire Service in supporting residents who have been ill. In the second wave significant impact on police with up to 22% off sick or isolating. The roll out of vaccines has been a fantastic success and in SW London we are ahead of planned delivery.

Many businesses have been hit very hard. There has been lots of support from Government and local councils but we hope to see more from the Chancellor in the budget. As Chair of Economy Committee Leonie has been meeting with those affected and they are looking at how to build a recovery in London. This includes looking at the 15 minute neighbourhood concept as an option for London. As deputy chair of the Environment Committee Leonie and her colleagues have been looking at protecting and improving open spaces and looking into whether the improvements in Air Quality during the pandemic can be retained. Some of the traffic measures introduced have been controversial and even in a pandemic it is essential to keep residents informed and engaged. [Mayors Question Time](#) on the budget took place today over Zoom. The Mayors budget includes a 9.5% increase in the precept going to the police, the fire brigade and concessionary fares.

The pre-election period starts on 22 March. Many may wish to register for postal vote to avoid attending person. The Election is on 6 May and involves the Mayor, Assembly member for Merton and Wandsworth, and the Assembly top up list. Ged Curran is the new returning officer for Merton and Wandsworth.

Cllr Gretton asked about the impact of 30 years of planning decisions on Mitcham. Leonie raised concerns about the current proposals in parliament to reform planning, in particular the expansion of permitted development rights. If any residents have any issues for Leonie they can email to leonie.cooper@london.gov.uk

3 WILSON HOSPITAL UPDATE (Agenda Item)

Sue Tappenden, project manager for the Well-Being part of Wilson gave an update on the project. South West London Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) had provided a statement saying that the CGG is working with NHS Property Services on options for development of a Mitcham health and wellbeing hub (including the Wilson site), but as yet there is no timetable for work to start. The CCG will engage with the community at the appropriate time. The CCG is hopeful there will be more developments to share over the coming months.

In 2019 there was a decision to use parts of the Wilson Hospital for a well-being space on an interim basis. Wilson Wellbeing Steering Group was set up to develop the project. Chaired by Diana Sterck, Steering Group members include representatives from local community organisations and local residents. The project started work late 2019 and all the Group's meeting minutes are available on the [MVSC website](#). The Group is working with the local community to identify services and gaps to support the expansion and delivery of wellbeing services and activities to support local residents. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has impacted greatly on progress and development work has been extremely difficult over the last year.

On a positive note, working with the CCG, NHS Property Services developed an improved and more flexible wellbeing space at The Wilson at the end of 2020 as part of their social prescribing initiative. The space is currently being used for the vaccine clinic. As restrictions lift and the vaccine programme changes, it is anticipated that the space will become available for use by the local community to deliver wellbeing services and activities. Space will be free of charge to hire for small organisations/group and available at a competitive rate for larger organisations. The social prescribing initiative is also developing a community garden at the Wilson for use by local residents.

Cllr Chung asked about publicity for the service. Sue said this was put on hold during COVID but they are developing a website with all the relevant information and a way of booking the space. It will also ask residents to suggest activities that will benefit the community.

A resident asked about the long term prospects, as residents are concerned. Sue said she understands the frustration and will ensure that the CCG are aware that there is still a high level of interest in future plans.

A resident asked about booking rooms at the Wilson and Sue said she could be [emailed](#) until the website is ready. A resident said there is also a community garden at the Canons. Sue has been talking with the Canons project team but the two sites will have very different offers.

Cllr Gretton asked how we could encourage young people to take up more outdoor activities. Sue said that the Wilson Wellbeing would not be limited to just the Wilson site and they would be looking to work with other partners and collaborators to support a wide range of projects and ideas.

Cllr Chung said that the Wilson is important to the health and wellbeing and can be a major factor in closing the gap between East and West of the borough.

4 2021 CENSUS (Agenda Item 3)

Matthew Hopkins, Census Engagement Manager for the Office of National Statistics (ONS), gave a presentation on the 2021 Census. The presentation is attached to this report. Census day is 21 March 2021 and this will be a digital-first census with most households able to complete the form online. For those without digital access they will be able to request a paper copy and ONS field staff will visit households who have not completed their census form and can provide paper copies. Help will also be available online, through a call centre and locally from Merton Voluntary Service Council.

5 MERTON CHARACTER STUDY (Agenda Item 4)

Katherine Fox, Urban Designer, and Tara Butler, Programme Manager, gave a presentation on the Merton Character Study and Small Sites Toolkit currently being consulted on. The presentation is attached to this report.

Katherine said that the Character Study was not just based on the built environment but also has layers including people, history, natural environment, communities, socio-economic and environment. Neighbourhood areas were drawn from the views of residents. In Morden environment and transport had scored highly. There is more detail for each ward, including potential growth.

Small sites are those less than 0.25 hectares and in Merton they have a critical role. In the last 15 years 62% of new homes were built on these small sites. The Small Sites Toolkit sets out the issues developers should consider including themes such as 'Made in Merton', 'Fit for Purpose', 'People First' and 'Economic and Sustainable'. The aim is to improve the quality of developments on small sites.

Both the [Character Study](#) and the [Small Sites Toolkit](#) consultations are open until 23 March 2021.

A resident asked about back garden developments and Tara explained that Merton generally does not accept applications on green space, but the guide provides guidance for those considering an application on a small site.

A question was asked about the future of the Burn Bullock and Cricket pavilion which is under threat from landlord and if Merton would consider a Compulsory Purchase Order. Tara said the guide should help improve any applications from the landlords by providing clear guidance on the quality. CPOs can only be down in particular circumstance so it would depend on the legal rights. Future Merton is happy to continue to engage with the club.

A resident asked of the tool kit and character study addresses accessibility, needs of intergenerational families, and secondary routes. Tara said these issues are covered in the new Local Plan.

A resident said there were distinctive community areas that had been included in the same neighbourhoods for example Phipps Bridge has been linked to Church Road. We would welcome feedback on these issues in the consultation.

A resident asked if the plans cover the need for affordable homes, Tara explained these documents cover the look of buildings, the Local Plan will address the need of affordable homes. Another resident said that planning decisions currently allow buildings that do not reflect current character and again this feedback to the consultation is helpful. This toolkit will address quality on small sites as this makes up the majority of development.

A resident asked if whether local churches were notified of plan-making consultations. If anybody or any organisation would like to be notified of public consultations on plan-making and planning guidance they are welcome to contact us and we will add them to the consultation database. We can't add or retain contact details without the person or organisation explicitly opting in. There are two main ways to do this:

- Complete the online survey "Subscribe to the Local Plan consultation database" available on Merton Council's Local Plan webpage here: [Local Plan \(merton.gov.uk\)](http://merton.gov.uk)
- Register for email alerts about council-wide consultations (this will allow the user to select different council-wide areas of interest such as education, the environment, climate change matters, as well as plan-making) [Get involved in Merton](#)

6 ROWAN SITE UPDATE (Agenda Item 5)

James McGinlay, Head of Regeneration, gave an update from Merton Council and SW London CCG. The Rowan Park development including housing, park, community facility and health centre. The housing and park has been delivered. For the health centre Crest has approved the building, some funding from Merton. Changes to the design has been approved by planning. The CCG is working with GPs which has been slowed by pandemic. GPs have agreed the layout, but CCG is commissioning surveyors to report over the next couple of months to authorise value for money with in the NHS. The community facility is integral with the health centre but is the same size as previously planned. It will be about a year-long build and this could begin possibly in the summer.

Tara updated on Mitcham Bridge construction work is taking place, and we hope to finish late summer 2021.

7 CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN (Agenda Item 6)

Katie Halter, Climate Change Officer gave a presentation on the Climate Change Action Plan. The presentation is attached to this report. The Climate Change Strategy was adopted in November 2020 and the deliver plan was adopted in February 2021. The Plan covers Merton Council's work to decarbonise and support it can give to others.

There has been a 40% reduction in Merton Council estate emissions since 2009. Merton Council took a number of actions in 2020 including switching to 100% renewable electricity; completing the roll out of LED street lights; spending £0.5m to decarbonise children's centres and community buildings; £400,000 from the Neighbourhood Fund being spent on a Warmer Homes Project; updating the Local Plan and campaigns such as Climate Champions in GP surgeries.

Plans in 2021 include new [community pledges](#), another round of [Solar Together](#), and new [Action Groups](#) to encourage community projects. You can register for [email updates](#) on this work.

A resident asked if there was help for voluntary, community, and faith groups. Katie said the team was happy to provide advice to groups and will be attending a meeting of the Faith and Belief Forum. The team is already in communication with Sustainable Merton, Merton Residents Transport Group and others and any groups are welcome to get involved.

8 COVID UPDATE (Agenda Item 7)

Barry Causer, Head of Strategic Commissioning, Public Health, gave a presentation on the latest situation with COVID in Merton. The presentation is attached to this report and covered the latest statistics, the new Roadmap, and key updates.

Barry said that the 7-day case rate (per 100,000) was down to 132.3 from a peak of 1000 but this is still too high. We have seen a similar disproportionate impact on some BAME communities in wave 2 as we did in the first wave, and cases have been higher in the East of the borough compared to the West. The new national road map has a number of stages and each has at least 5 weeks between each stage, which will be used to assess the impact of the changes.

There had been an enhanced testing programme in Pollards Hill in response to a resident who was found to have the South African variant of COVID-19. Over 10,000 tests were circulated and so far no additional cases have been found. Cllr Draper said the whole council had contributed to an extraordinary achievement in Pollards Hill.

The vaccination programme is going well in South West London, now on priority groups 5 and 6. There are a number of barriers and some hesitancy to have the vaccines amongst some communities, so the NHS are holding webinars led by BAME clinicians to answer any questions from those living or working in Merton and are also working with local community and faith organisation to encourage take up. Recent studies have shown that the vaccine is likely to reduce transmission as well as reducing the impact of the virus on individuals.

To find out more you can sign-up for the [Council COVID newsletter](#), and if you would like to be more involved in supporting your community you can still join the [COVID Champions](#). There is also financial support available to local community groups through [Merton Giving](#).

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING (Agenda Item 8)

Councillor Chung thanked residents for attending and closed the meeting.

Date of next meeting

Wednesday 6 October 2021 at 7.15pm, venue to be confirmed.

census
2021

Helping everyone take part in Census 2021

Page 1

Matthew Hopkins
ONS Census Engagement Manager, Merton

Minute Item 4

The census

- The census is a survey that happens every 10 years and everyone takes part.
- The ONS is responsible for the census in England and Wales.
- The census is important because it gives the most detailed information we have about our society.



Billions of pounds are allocated to local services using census-based information every year

Page 3 So that these funds can be allocated in the most appropriate and effective ways, it's important the census accurately captures everyone in our society.



No one knows your community better than you

- By taking part and encouraging others to do the same, you'll help make sure your community is counted in decisions on services and funding.
- We understand that building positive relationships with communities means more people understand the benefits of the census and are likely to take part.
- We need your help to raise awareness and understanding of the census in your community.

Census 2021 facts

- The next census will take place on **Sunday 21 March 2021.**
- For the first time this will be a **digital-first** census, but paper will be available for those who need it.
- We'll focus on engaging with everyone, including under-represented and **hard to reach groups.**
- Help will be available for people who need support to take part online.



Keeping personal information safe

- Before publishing statistics, the ONS make sure that they don't include any personal information.
- The information collected in the census remains anonymous for 100 years.
- No individual or their responses can be identified in the statistics the ONS publish.
- Everyone must complete the census. Legislation made the modern census a legal obligation in 1920.



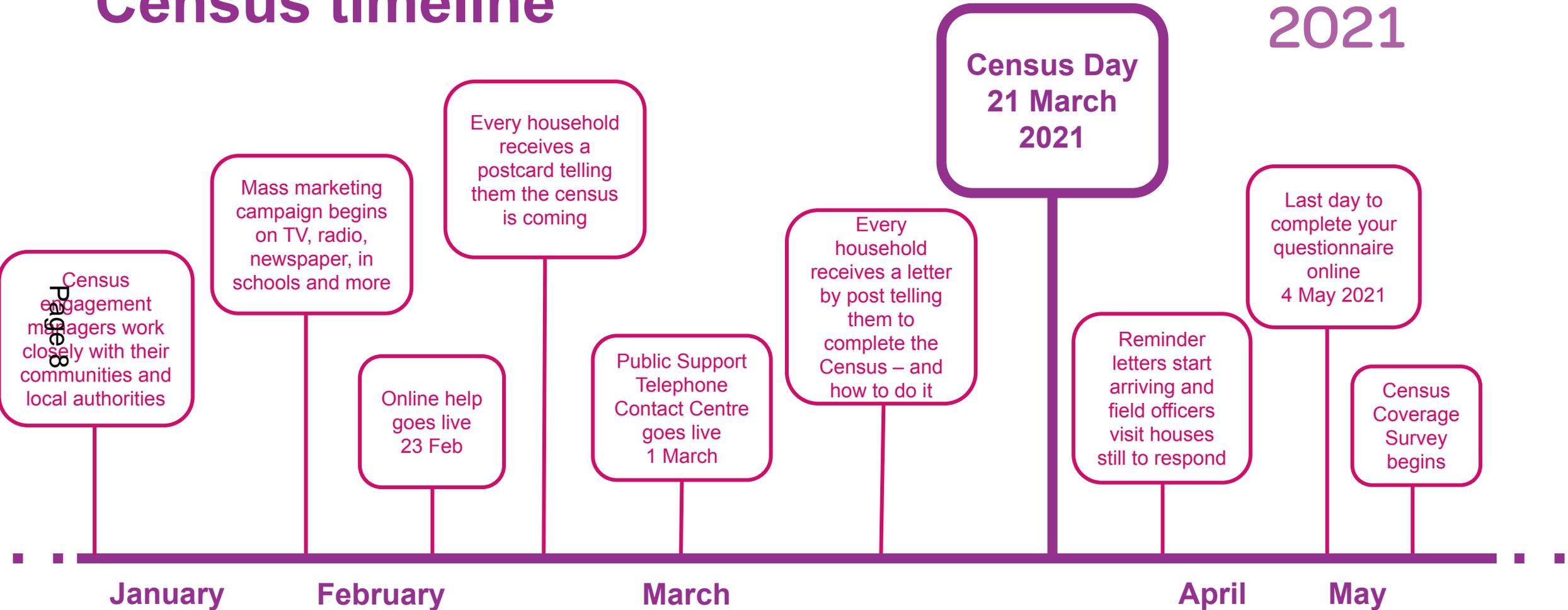
Keeping personal information safe

- Personal census information can't be used to change any service an individual gets, and it can't be seen by anyone who makes decisions about them.
- For example, it cannot be seen or used by government to influence benefit claims, a residency application, immigration status or taxes, or by landlords or any other private organisation



Census timeline

census
2021



Advanced Postcard

census
2021

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Sent to every household - mid to end of **February**

Inform people that the census is coming.

Calls upon recipients to look out for their census invitation pack in the post.



Initial Contact Packs - Letter

Page 10

Sent to households **beginning of March**

Provide households with their access code for the electronic questionnaire.

Provide help options - including where to request a paper questionnaire.

census 2021

Householder
<Address_Line1>
<Address_Line2>
<Locality>
<Town_Name>
<Postcode>

If you need help, go to www.census.gov.uk or phone us free on 0800 141 2021

Reference number:
1234 1234 12

Dear Householder

We need your help with the census, which gathers vital information to help plan services, such as transport, education and healthcare. All households should complete the census on **Sunday 21 March 2021** or as soon as possible after. You must complete the census by law or you could be fined up to £1,000.

How to complete your census

- 1 Read this letter containing your household access code. ✓
- 2 Go to www.census.gov.uk, select "Start census" and enter your household access code:
1A2B 3C4D 5E6F 7G8H
- 3 Answer the questions and submit when complete.

Your answers are protected by law and will be kept confidential.

The census should take around **10 minutes per person** to fill in. Every census completed online saves paper and taxpayers' money. See the enclosed leaflet for how to get help to complete your census. You can request a paper form at www.census.gov.uk or call 0800 141 2021.

Thank you

Professor Sir Ian Diamond – National Statistician

Office for National Statistics www.census.gov.uk

101

Initial Contact Packs - Information

census
2021

Page 11

Included with the letter

Provide households with answers to common questions about the census and how to complete the form.

Communicate different methods of contact for getting help.



What the census is

The census is a survey that happens every 10 years and gives us a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales.

Why you have to take part

Organisations such as local authorities and charities use census information to understand the services we all need, including transport, education and healthcare.

You must complete the census by law. If you do not, or if you supply false information, you could be fined up to £1,000.

Some questions are clearly labelled as being voluntary. It is not an offence if you do not answer these.

When to complete your census form

You should complete your census form on Sunday 21 March 2021 or as soon as possible after.

You can submit your completed questionnaire before 21 March if you know who will be in your household on that day. If you submit your questionnaire before 21 March but your circumstances change before that day, you can let us know.

Who should fill it in

The household should fill in the census for the household. This is the person who owns or rents (or jointly owns or rents) the property, or the person who is responsible (or jointly responsible) for paying household bills and expenses.

Answering separately from your household

If you want to answer separately from the people you live with, you can contact us to request an individual access code. Someone must still complete a census for your household.

Making it accessible for all

- Large print format
- Braille format
- Accessible videos with BSL, audio & subtitles
- Easy Read leaflet
- Text Relay
- Compatible electronic questionnaire
- Online guidance
- Translation booklets of the questionnaire
- Language support line



Online & Language support

Dedicated Contact Centre

- People will be able complete the census over the phone with help from trained staff via free phone.
- Guidance and translation service in many languages.
- Request a paper version of the questionnaire.
- Accessible census guidance, for example, in braille



Language support

Translated versions of a number of engagement communications in 49 languages e.g.

Languages		
Arabic	Czech	Hebrew
French	Hungarian	Urdu
Bengali	Bulgarian	Somali
Mandarin	Polish	Spanish
Cantonese	Romanes	Portuguese
Cornish	Punjabi	Kurdish
Romanian	Gujrati	Tamil
Lithuanian	Hindi	Vietnamese
Latvian	Nepali	Turkish
Slovak	Yiddish	Additional languages available

What you can do

- Support people to fill in their questionnaire
- Direct people to the telephone and language support
- Help to promote the message that personal census information is kept safe and secure
- Post news items or articles if you are able to communicate online with your community

Keep in touch

Census Engagement Managers for Merton:

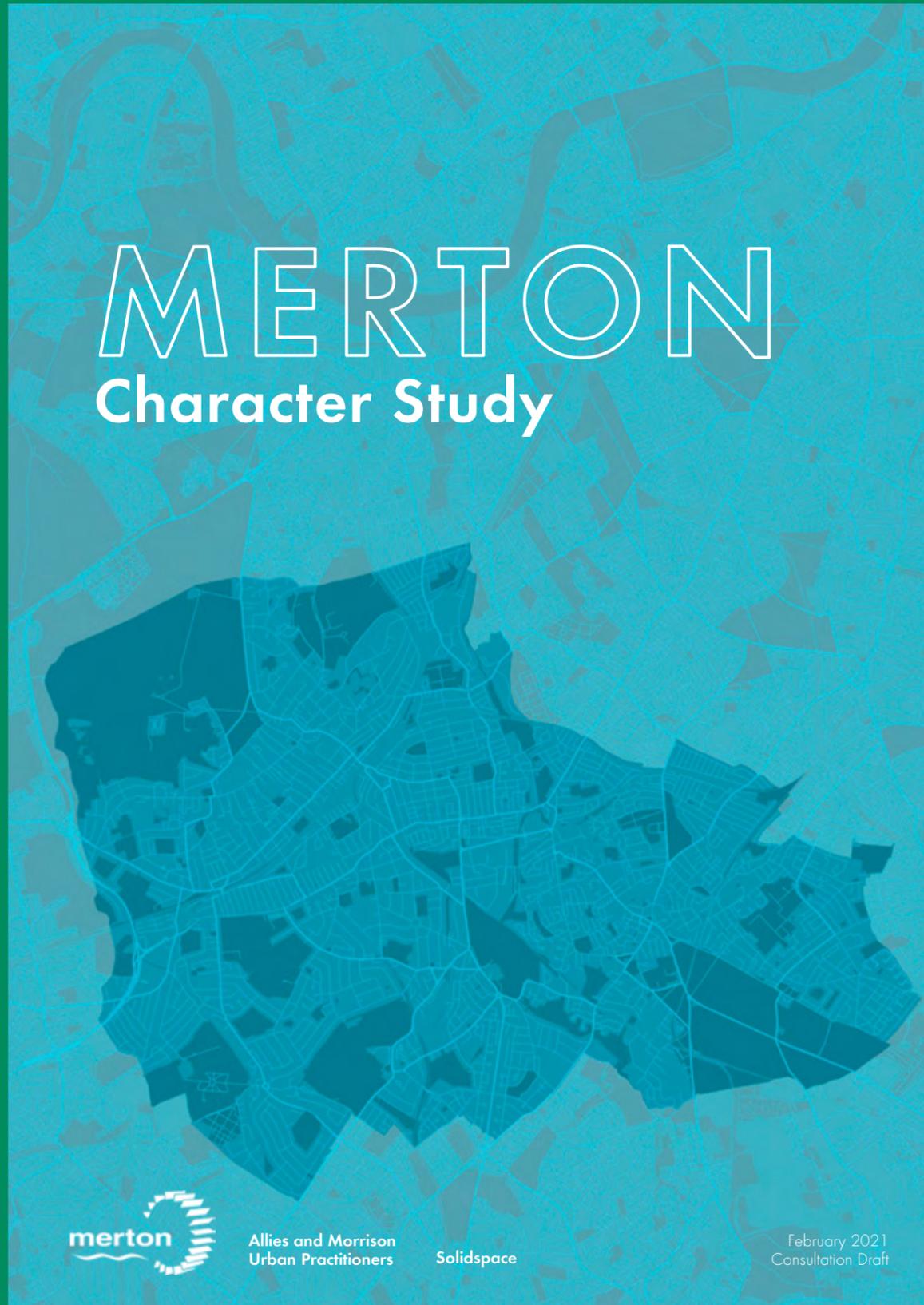
matthew.hopkins05@field.census.gov.uk

+44 (0)7452 945152

- Bookmark the Census 2021 website: www.census.gov.uk
- Follow us on social Media [#Census2021](https://twitter.com/Census2021)



please leave feedback on consult.merton.gov.uk by 23 March



WHY DO WE NEED A CHARACTER STUDY?

Character is more than buildings and spaces. It is social, historical and physical - and the interplay between these factors.

All of these factors should direct future growth in the borough.



LAYERS OF CHARACTER: PEOPLE

The Character Study has been informed by over 400 residents that took part in the engagement events.

Page 19

01. Online public survey

reviewing perceived neighbourhood boundaries and what residents valued in their neighbourhoods

416 responses

02. Community groups survey

gaining insight from a representative cross section of groups to inform the study.

03. Stakeholder workshop

focussed workshops with residents and local groups to discuss specific neighbourhoods

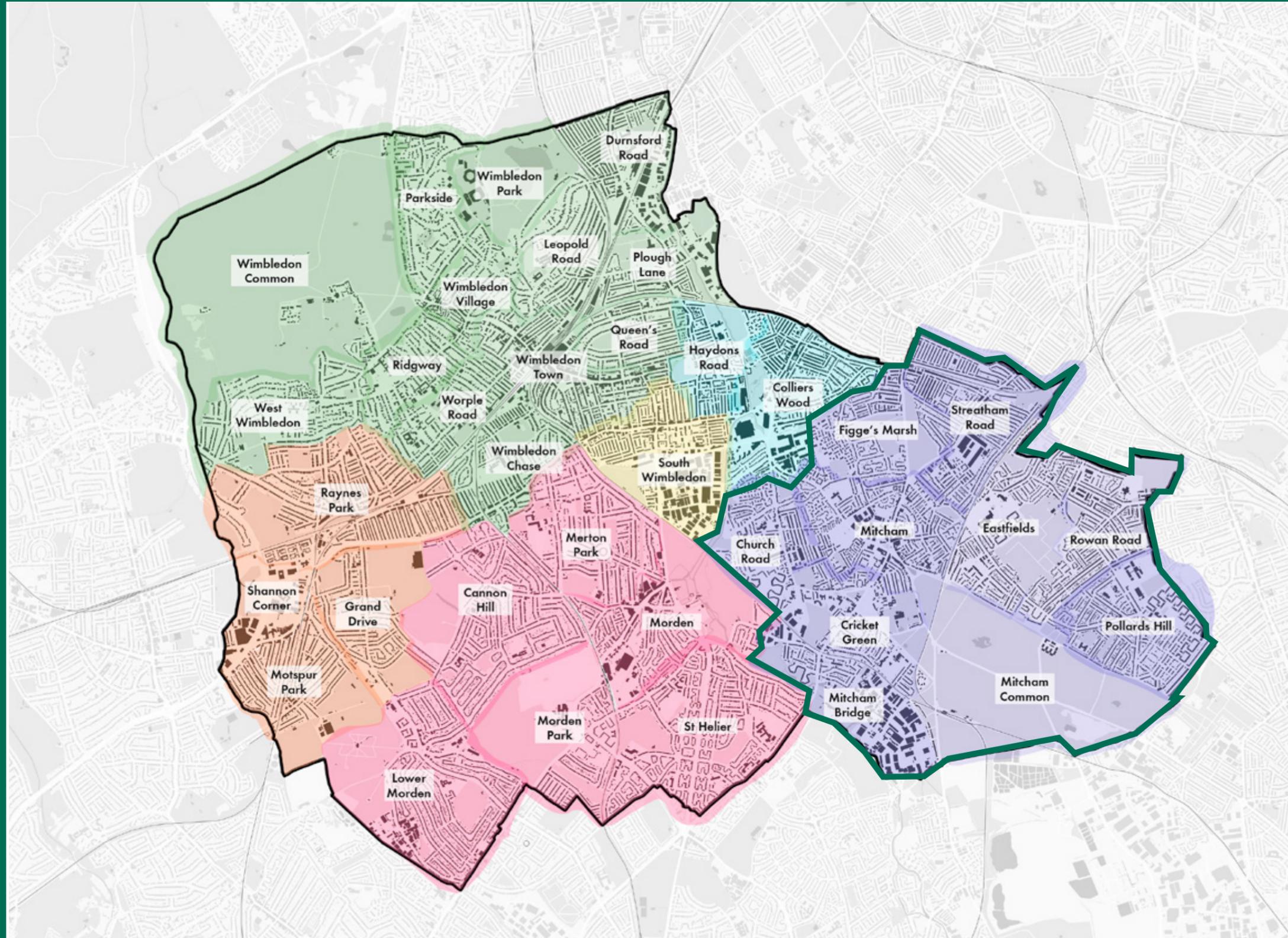
c. 30 attendees

04. Public consultation

please leave feedback on the draft Character Study SPD by 23rd March

MERTON'S DISTINCTIVE NEIGHBOURHOODS

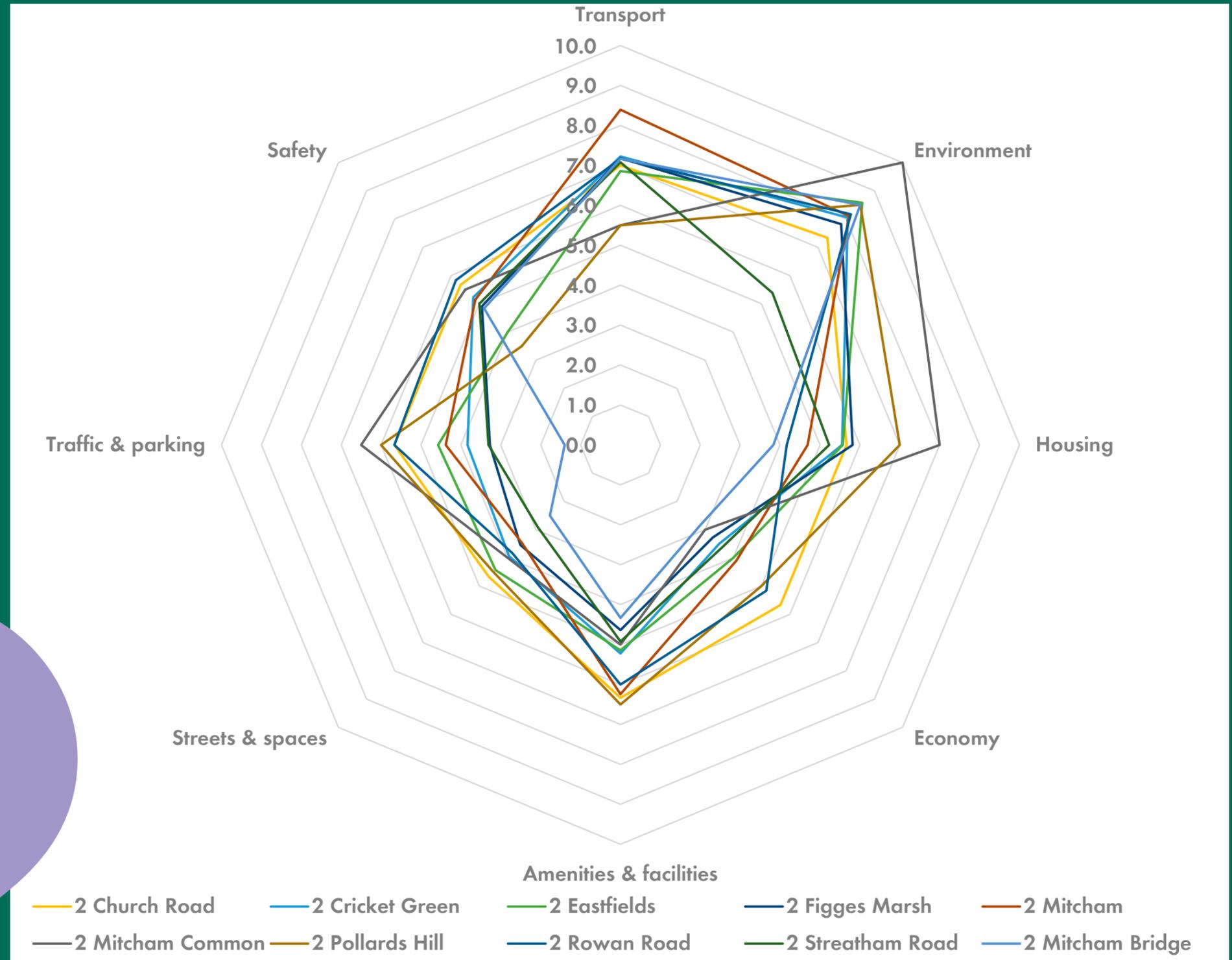
Providing guidance to the rich and varied character found across the borough



MITCHAM

Over 400 Merton residents responded to rate their neighbourhood

"Lots of green space, kind and humble community, period buildings and features, localised shopping"



DISTINCTIVENESS AND OPPORTUNITIES: MITCHAM

Informed by analysis and conversations with residents



What you said was special
Close community feel, small green spaces, heritage, diverse community, zone 3 location

What you said was special
Easy commute to work, small shops and historic features, diverse, green spaces everywhere, village feeling of the town centre

FIGGES MARSH

Distinctiveness - heritage and key features

- Centred on Figges Marsh, a historic triangular green space, and London Road, a busy movement corridor
- Victorian and Edwardian 3-4 storey gabled terraces with shops by station including locally listed terrace
- Later infill along London Road
- Rest of area predominantly residential - late Victorian / Edwardian terraces, 1930s housing and 1990s cul-de-sac
- London Road cemetery also an important green space and landmark
- Mature trees important landscape asset

key issues / opportunities

- Fragmentation of character due to poor quality infill along London Road
- Traffic dominance and poor pedestrian environment along London Road
- Few trees, loss of green verges
- Loss of original features / poorly maintained commercial buildings
- In residential streets, poor paving / road quality, poor boundary treatments and loss of front gardens
- Poor alterations / extensions in places
- Strengthen western edge of London Road and create 'green spine' - tree planting, landscaping, reduce traffic dominance
- Opportunities around Myrna Close car park area

MITCHAM

Distinctiveness - heritage and key features

- Historic mixed use town centre, focused on Upper Green with tight urban development surrounding it which still retains the typical medieval form of narrow house plots on north and eastern side of the Green
- Diverse range of building heights and styles
- Looser development along the key routes with a fragmented character - mainly retail interspersed with community uses
- West of London Road - large industrial / commercial footprints and more residential to the east of the area (1930s short terraces and blocks of six-storey flats)
- London Road runs north-south through the area and A236 intersects - both busy movement corridors
- Gasholder a key landmark

key issues / opportunities

- Original focus of the Upper Green has been lost to some extent
- Poor shopfront quality
- Car dominated along the key corridors - poor pedestrian environment in places
- Pedestrian and cycling links to residential areas poor
- Infill development e.g. housing above shops, underutilised sites to reinforce area
- Improve connections to wider area
- Public realm enhancements - create green spine and enhance gateways
- Opportunity to improve the market



STRATEGIC GROWTH THEMES: MITCHAM

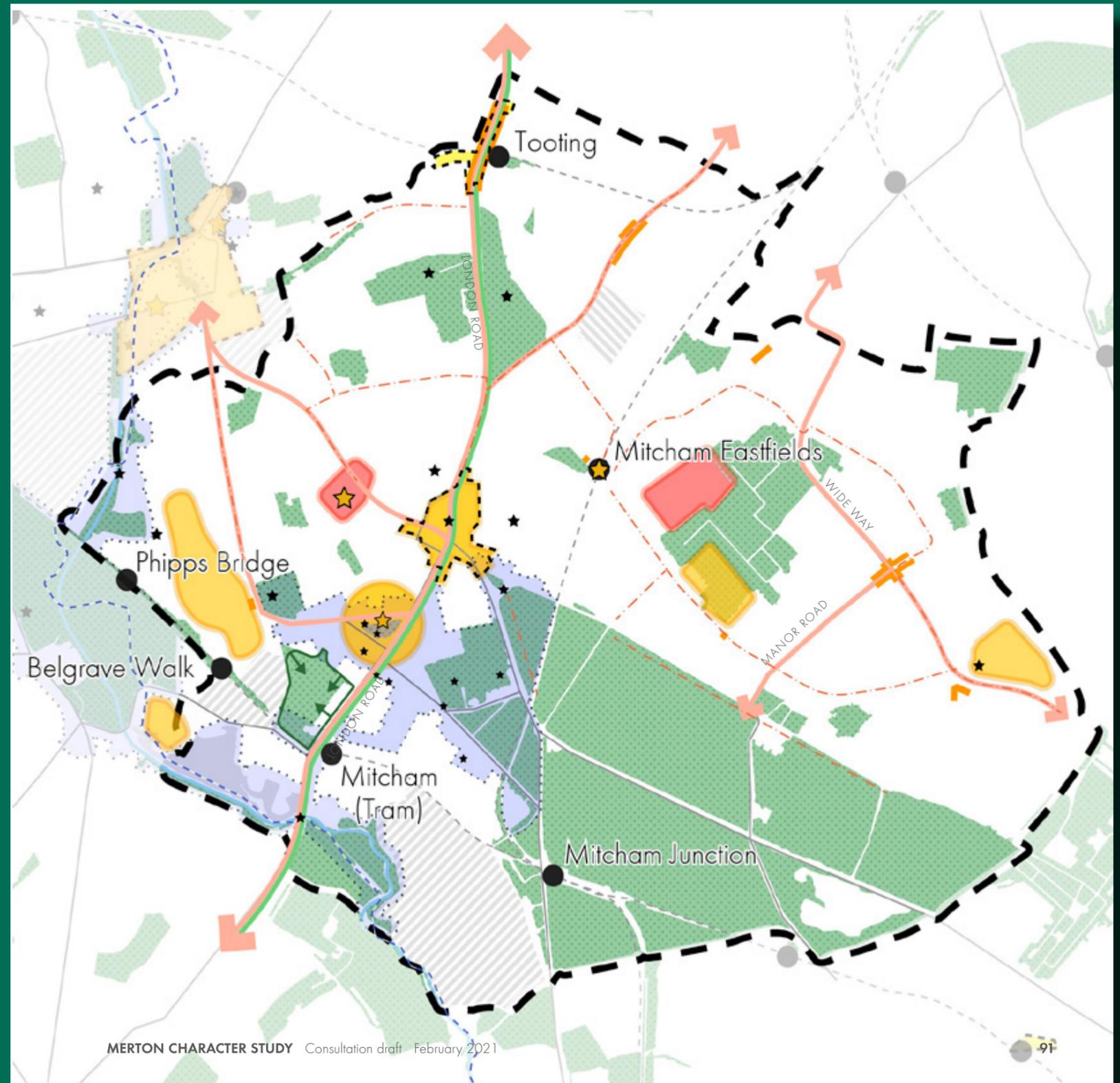
Potential growth opportunities that enhance character

proposals / opportunities:

- Reimagine character
- Re-examine character
- Repair character
- ↔ Corridor Intensification (major)
- ↔ Corridor Intensification (minor)
- Enhance parade
- ↔ Strategic greening and improvements
- ↔ Strategic improvements
- ↔ Active travel improvements
- ↔ Local green link improvements
- ↗ Improving connection to park

baseplan:

- Area Boundary
- Town Centre Boundary
- Conservation Area
- Green Space
- Locally Significant Industrial Sites
- Strategic Industrial Locations
- Train/Tube/Tram Station
- ★ Strategic Landmark
- ★ Local Landmark
- Road
- Rail
- Waterway
- ↔ Waterway Link



OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHARACTER LED GROWTH

Identifies growth opportunities, small and large

URBAN TERRACE

Examples of context-led growth:



1



2



3



4



5

Examples of contextual, mid-rise intensification in low-scale / residential areas



Quicks Road, South Wimbledon. Image © Google Street View



Stage House, Wimbledon. Image © Google Street View



Flora Court, Croydon. Image © Pitman Tozer Architects



King Edward's Road, Hackney. Image © Hawkins / Brown



Essex Close, Waltham Forest. Image © Bell Phillips Architects



Great Eastern Buildings, Hackney. Image © Karakusevic Carson Architects

Examples of context-led, tall intensification in town centre locations



Mizen Heights, Colliers Wood. Image © Future Merton



Wellington House, Wimbledon. Image © MATT architecture



Porters Edge, Southwark © Maccreanor Lavington

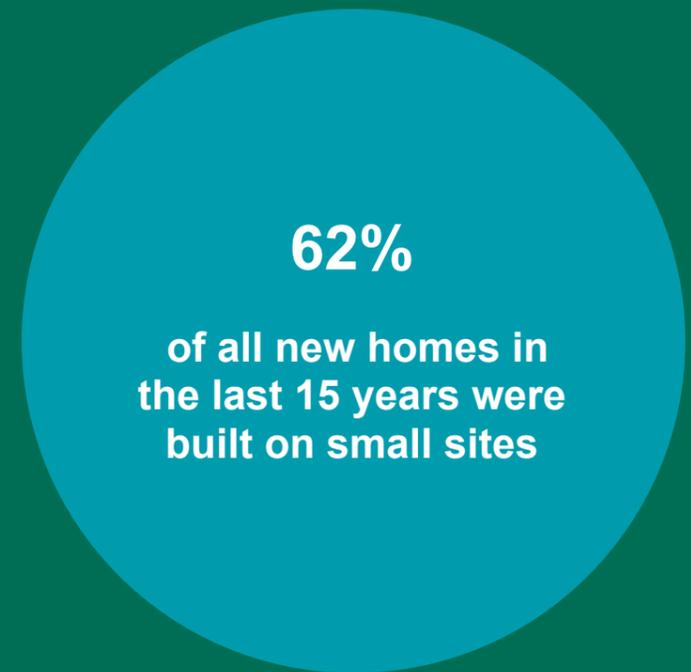


SMALL SITES TOOLKIT

CONSULTATION DRAFT

WHY SMALL SITES?

Small sites have always largely contributed to housing delivery in the borough.



SMALL SITES ARE ALL SHAPES AND SIZES

The quality of small sites are mixed. With some guidance we aim to encourage more development on small sites to a higher quality.



FOUR TYPES OF SITE

1. EXISTING BUILDINGS



Fig. 3.5 - Salt Yard, Wimbledon, by Franis Philips Architects
(Left: Before, Right: After)

2. ROOFTOPS



Fig. 3.8 - Neptune House, Wimbledon
(Left: Before, Right: After)

3. STREET-FACING



Fig. 3.12 - Lucien Road, Wimbledon by Harp & Harp Architects
(Credit: Harp & Harp Architects)
(Left: Before, Right: After)

4. BACKLAND



Fig. 3.16 - Graveney Mews, Tooling by MMA Architects
(Credit: MMA Architects)
(Left: Before, Right: After)

THE TOOLKIT

We've developed three tools to assist in the design process to encourage applicants to think holistically about design and deliver better quality planning applications.

1. Design Guidance

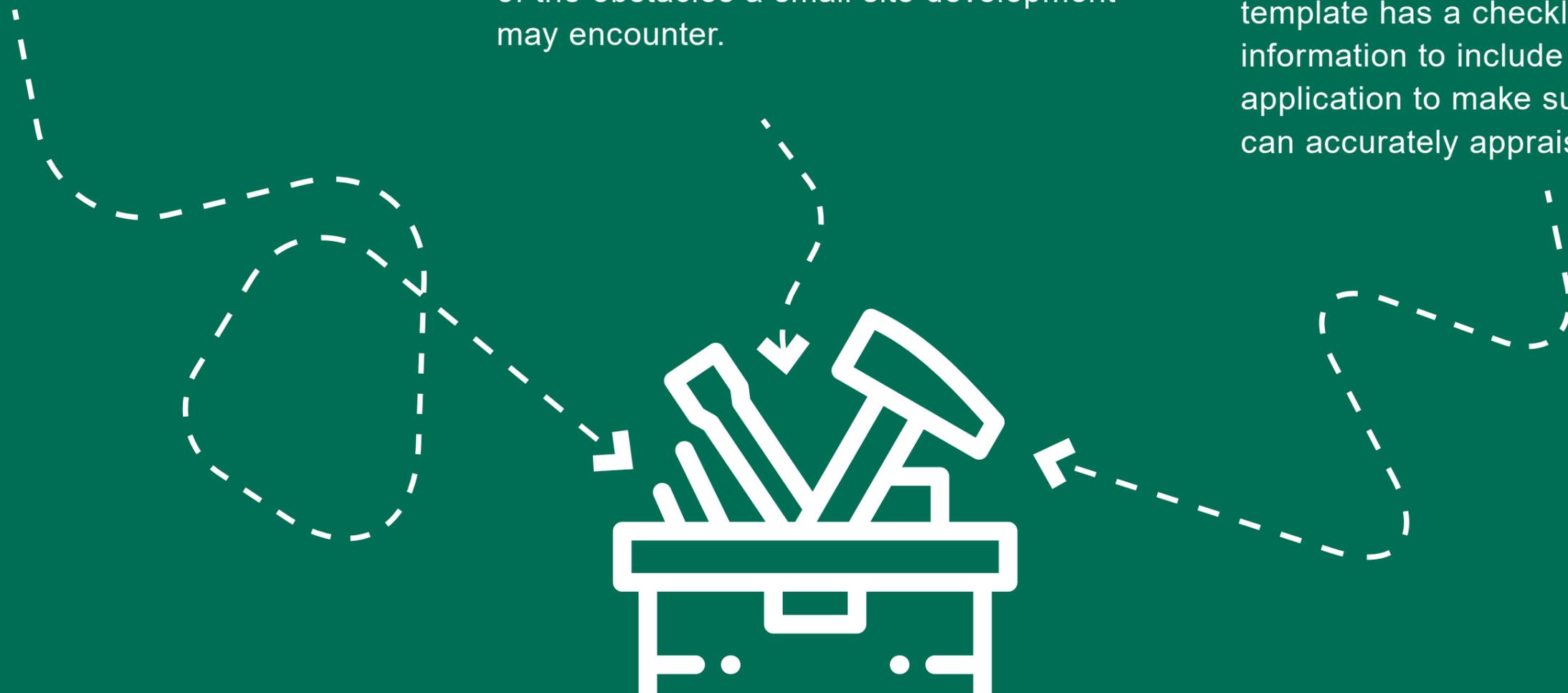
A sequence of questions and recommendations to guide you when designing your project. Merton Council will use these guidance notes to appraise your project during the planning process.

2. Case Studies

A selection of relevant case studies illustrating exemplar developments that have been delivered on small sites. Using thoughtful solutions the designers of these projects have successfully overcome some of the obstacles a small site development may encounter.

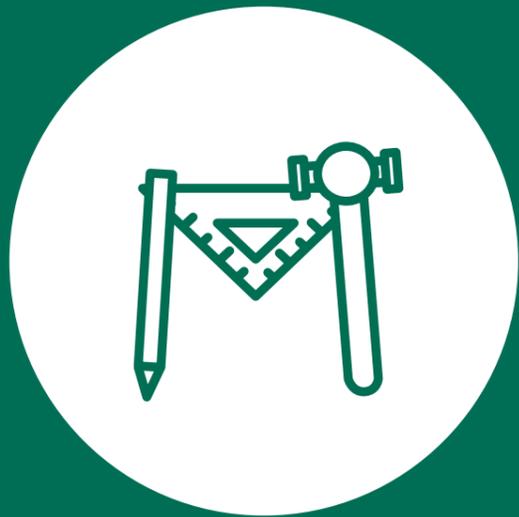
3. Design and Access Statement Template

As part of your planning application, you should produce a Design and Access Statement (DAS). A DAS will help explain and justify your proposal. The template has a checklist of necessary information to include with your application to make sure Merton Council can accurately appraise you project.



1. DESIGN GUIDANCE

The Design Guidance revolves around 4 key objectives that encourage applicants to look beyond their site boundaries.



MADE IN MERTON

- Respond to the vision of the borough set out in Merton's Local Plan.
- Respond to local character and needs set out in Merton's Borough Character Study.
- Encourage active travel.

FIT FOR PURPOSE

- Create homes that are innovative and built to a high standard.
- Provide rooms that are functional, adequately sized and adaptable.
- Ensure internal and external spaces maintain safety and privacy.

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

- Promote health and wellbeing by creating spaces that encourage interactions between neighbours.
- Provide a mix of housing types and uses that meet the needs of present and future residents.
- Ensure that the amenity of neighbours is protected.

ECONOMICAL & SUSTAINABLE

- Make use of robust materials that retain their aesthetic quality.
- Challenge rising fuel costs, flood risk and climate change with good design.
- Encourage biodiversity by integrating landscape and

'TYPICAL' GUIDANCE

The guidance provides suggestions that will guide the built quality of future development...

How does your proposal respond to the language of the street?

5.1.17 A positive pedestrian experience on the street creates successful places. Your proposal should respond to existing rhythms and street frontages to strengthen the street scene. Street elevations and 3D perspectives can illustrate your design.

5.1.18 Where there is a strong rhythmic street composition, proposals should seek to continue this. This can be achieved through visual breaks and considered use of material. Conjoining buildings is strongly discouraged as it creates a terracing effect and breaks the rhythm of the street elevation. Visual breaks must be used to maintain the rhythm of the street. See Fig.5.7.

5.1.19 The frontage of your development must not exceed the frontage of its neighbour and/or host property. Moving beyond this line will only be acceptable if:

- The character of the street is such that the frontage of buildings step and there is no clear street frontage.
- It can be justified that it provides a positive interface with the street.

See Fig.5.8.

5.1.20 Maximise active street frontages to improve natural surveillance and create a sense of community. Large areas of inactive street frontage, such as doors to bin stores, garage doors and blank façades must be kept to a minimum. See chapter 8, 'Better Streets', for more details.

5.1.21 Contemporary proposals with good architectural design can make a positive contribution on the character of the street. A considered material pallet, articulated massing and good attention to detail can all contribute to a successful building.



Fig.5.7 - Maintaining rhythm
Conjoining buildings can create long street frontages and have a negative impact on the character of the street.

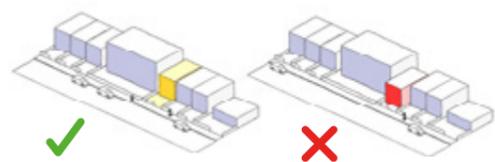


Fig.5.8 - Building front alignment
If the building front exceeds the frontage of its neighbour, it could have a negative impact on the character of the street.



Fig.5.9 - A contemporary 3 storey building continues the roof forms of its neighbours. (Housing in Mitcham by Groves Natcheva Architects)

5.1.22 Front gardens and boundary structures are important elements that define the character of a street. New boundary structures should respect the prevailing style along the street and protect any original boundary structures and trees.

5.1.23 Homes in many areas of the Borough are characterised by defensible entrance spaces such as front gardens, hedges, boundary walls and fences. If your proposal sits in such a neighbourhood, it must reflect this feature. This will give new residents a sense of security and privacy.

5.1.24 Consider planting trees and shrubs to improve air quality and the appearance your proposal. Planting may contribute to the wellbeing of residents by protecting garden spaces from busy roads.

5.1.25 Whether it's the front door to a new home, or the entrance into a shared lobby, the approach to the front door, house name and/or number must be clearly readable from the street. This can be achieved by clearly differentiating the entrance into the building from other openings in the facade.

5.1.26 Where mechanical plant equipment is required on the roof of the development, proposals should have uncluttered roof profiles and equipment should not be seen from the street level. There are many ways to hide these such as setting the plant equipment away from the edge of the roof, or integrating the plant with the design of the building. Flues should also be located in locations that create minimal impact to the elevation. Good forward planning for plant requirements should be done early in the design process. See Fig.5.11.



Fig.5.10 - The entrance of these villa blocks protrude towards the street and stand higher than the concrete banding marking each level. This creates a welcoming entrance that is distinct from other openings in the building fabric. (Finsbury Park Villas, Haringey by Sergison Bates Architects) [Credit: Stefan Müller]

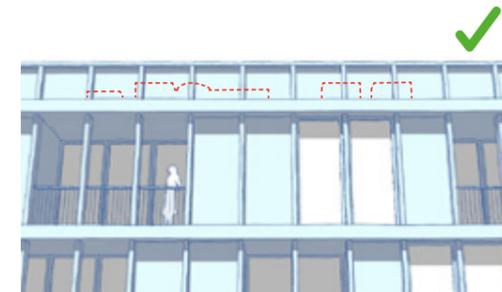
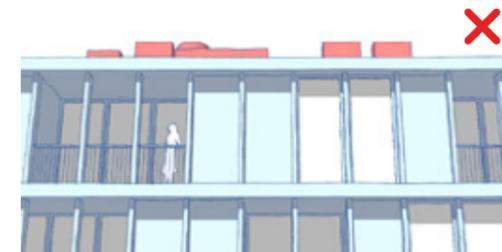


Fig.5.11 - Plant and services on roof. Seeing plant equipment from street level can have a negative impact on the character of the street.

'NON-TYPICAL' GUIDANCE

... And provides guidance to encourage building communities and improving emotional well-being.

Have you considered accommodating a mix of uses and users in your project?

- 7.1.19 Subdividing existing residential properties to create two or more new dwellings especially in areas dominated by family housing. Consider the mix of tenure your project will bring to the neighbourhood and if this complements existing provisions.
- 7.1.20 Proposals for conversions must include re-provision of at least one family-sized unit where an existing family unit has been lost due to the proposal.
- 7.1.21 Proposals for change of use or conversion of an existing building must ensure that any loss or impact on utility, community facilities, infrastructure, or emergency services is fully mitigated. This requirement is normally satisfied by making alternative provisions on-site or elsewhere or by demonstrating that the current uses are no longer required by the community.
- 7.1.22 Sites in locations with commercial and business uses must be carefully designed to preserve the privacy of new residents. Proposals on these sites may also retain employment uses. Mixed-use developments have the opportunity to create a unique atmosphere in the variety of uses accommodated on the site.
- 7.1.23 Multigenerational living (homes consisting of at least two adult generations living under the same roof) is a growing trend across London and in Merton. If you are considering expanding your household or providing for this need you must consider how your proposal can be adapted to changing needs at various life stages. You can future-proof your development by including capped-off services for future use and maximising non-loadbearing walls to allow internal rearrangements.
- 7.1.24 Homes in Merton must meet the needs of our community including people with disabilities and/or reduced mobility, wheelchair users and older people. Please consider incorporating the [M4\(2\) optional requirements](#) of the Building Regulations.



Fig.7.32 - This scheme introduces a doctor's surgery and shop units at ground floor level with residences above. (Croxted Road, Southwark by Panter Hudspith Architects)
[Credit: Panter Hudspith Architects]

How do your common areas foster community?

- 7.1.11 Communal space for circulation such as front entrance lobbies, stairs and corridors must provide a safe, functional and comfortable setting for chance encounters. Well-designed communal spaces can create a sense of pride in where a person lives.
- 7.1.12 Shared circulation should have views out with adequate ventilation and natural light. Designs based on double-loaded corridors are often poorly lit and ventilated. This makes for unwelcoming spaces that are avoided or neglected by residents.
- 7.1.13 Shared circulation spaces should be finished in robust materials in order to create desirable common spaces for residents.
- 7.1.14 Where you are proposing housing in conjunction with other uses in the building, give careful consideration to the separation of circulations routes. Your proposal must demonstrate how circulation routes will allow residents to maintain privacy from other users in the building.
- 7.1.15 Each dwelling should have its own separate entrance externally or from a shared circulation route. In the case of Houses of Multiple Occupation you must provide secure private spaces for each resident, separate and independent from shared spaces and circulation routes.
- 7.1.16 Communal amenity spaces should be orientated to maximise the amount of daylight and sunlight and have a strong landscape approach.
- 7.1.17 Proposals with shared access routes must demonstrate that they will allow easy and safe access for pedestrians. You should include design features that will encourage neighbours to interact positively. Consider including public seating areas, communal gardens and play areas where possible.
- 7.1.18 We encourage shared access to communal spaces across different tenures. You should avoid segregating entrances for different tenures.



Fig.7.30 - A naturally lit lobby that is generously spaced has a view through from the front door to the communal courtyard. (Kings Crescent Estate, Hackney by Karakusevic Carson Architects)
[Credit: Karakusevic Carson Architects]

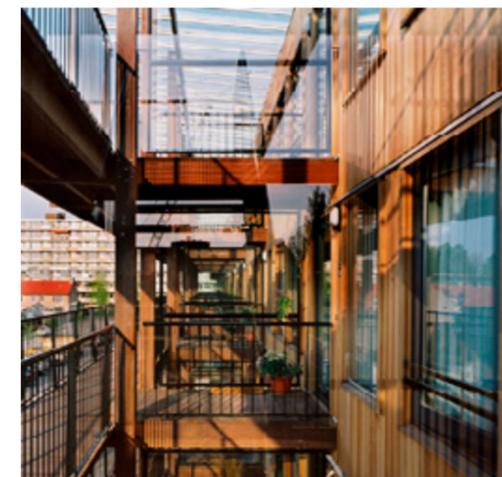


Fig.7.31 - Bridged gallery access provides semi public front garden and better privacy and daylight. (Koekoekspreeuw, Amersfoort by KCAP)
[Credit: KCAP]

2. CASE STUDIES

A collection of exemplar projects provide a catalogue of good quality projects to learn from.

STREET-FACING - CORNER INFILL

LUCIEN ROAD

The site of this 3-storey 2-bed house sits at the end of a terrace and that was occupied by a detached single storey garage belonging to the neighbouring property. The new house shares a party wall with 32 Mount Road and references features of the 1920/30's houses in the area,



Project Information
 Architect: Harp & Harp Ltd
 Client: Private
 Borough: Merton
 Address: 43 Lucien Road, London, SW19 8EL
 Completion date: February 2020
 Current PTAL: 3

Site Characteristics
 Site area net (sqm): 173
 Site area gross (sqm): 173
 Parking numbers: 1

Building Characteristics
 Dwelling mix: 1-bed: 0
 2-bed: 1
 3-bed: 0
 4-bed: 0
 Total: 1
 Average GIA per dwelling (sqm): 89
 Typical number of dwellings per core: N/A
 Typical number of dwellings per floor per core: N/A
 Maximum height above ground level (m): 8
 Maximum height above Ordnance Datum (m):
 Maximum number of storeys: 3

Tenure
 Affordable: 0% PRS: 0%
 Social rent: 0% Market sale: 100%

Planning use split
 Non-residential use: None
 GEA (sqm): -
 GIA (sqm): 90
 NIA (sqm): -

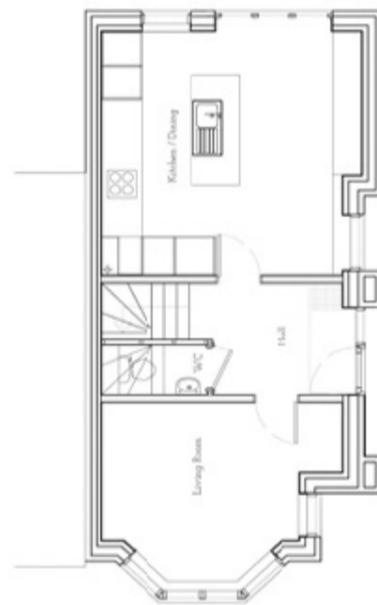


Fig.9.59 (Top)
Site plan.

Fig.9.60 (Bottom)
Ground floor plan.

This scheme is exemplary of the following Good Design Principles:

MADE IN MERTON

The house sits within an established context and was designed to reference both the 1930s arts and crafts terrace to which it is attached and the more formal Edwardian houses opposite whilst also being unmistakably contemporary. Details such as the white and black tiles around the entrance echo the tiled paths of its neighbours and break up the brick and render and create visual interest appropriate for the prominent corner site.

MADE IN MERTON

Clear steps have also been taken to make the new house address its corner position and frontage to both Mount and Lucien Road. The front door to the new house is placed on the side (Lucien Road) frontage to allow the building to turn the corner and properly address its context as well as creating an efficient layout internally.

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

The buildings massing breaks down to create a smaller more domestically scaled gable end with a large amount of fenestration giving the gable an active frontage to Lucien Road. The appropriately scaled massing avoids an overbearing appearance on the prominent corner site.



Fig.9.61 - View of house in context.
[Credit: Harp & Harp Architects]



Fig.9.62 - Decorative tiles referencing Victorian floor tiles.
[Credit: Harp & Harp Architects]



Fig.9.63 - Well-lit kitchen and dining space leading out to garden.
[Credit: Harp & Harp Architects]

3. DAS STATEMENT

A template that asks the right questions to better appraise future planning submissions.



Intended use: applications for planning permission and/or listed building consent to create new residential units on sites of 0.25Ha or less with some or exclusively residential use.

This template can be used to write your design and access statement. It should be used to explain the design thinking behind your proposal and to demonstrate that your design will be accessible to all users. Each section of the statement allows you to include drawings and images to support your application. You may choose to refer to drawings and images that accompany your submission.

In each section please provide as much information as possible in favour of your proposal. Additional pages have been included for use as needed. Blank pages should be deleted if they are not used.

You may find that some sections of this document are not relevant to your application. Where this is the case please state that the section is 'not applicable' and provide some explanation.



**SMALL SITE
DESIGN AND ACCESS
STATEMENT
TEMPLATE**

Revision: A dd/mm/yyyy

consult.merton.gov.uk

please complete the feedback survey and leave any comments by **23 March**.

do you agree / disagree with what has been mentioned?

do you have any suggestions?

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The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the 'Consultations - Merton Council' page. The URL is <https://consult.merton.gov.uk/kms/dmart.aspx?LoggingIn=tempVar...>. The page features the Merton Council logo and a navigation menu with links to Home, Council and democracy, Get Involved, and Consultations. The main heading is 'Current and planned consultations'. Below this is a search bar with the placeholder text 'Type in here to search' and a 'Search' button. A link for 'Advanced Search' is also present. A pagination bar shows 'Pages 1 2' and 'Total results: 36'. The first consultation listed is 'Merton Character Study', which started on 09 Feb 2021 and ends on 23 Mar 2021. The text under this heading explains the purpose of the study: 'Why do we want your views? This study has been prepared to assist the Council, community groups, stakeholders and others with an interest in the borough to better understand Merton's distinctive local character. It is an update to the Borough Character Study undertaken between 2011 and 2015. The Character Study will support preparation of the Council's New Local Plan as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and be used to inform a character and 'place-based' approach to managing growth in the borough. Similarly, neighbourhood forums will be able to draw on this study to assist with the preparation of their neighbourhood plans. The report will also inform decisions made by Council officers and should be an important tool used by developers and others investing in Merton to ensure proposals positively respond to the local context. You can read the document [here](#).' A 'More' button is located below the text. The second consultation listed is 'Merton Small Sites Toolkit', which also started on 09 Feb 2021 and ends on 23 Mar 2021. On the right side of the page, there is a 'Consultations' sidebar with links to 'Current and planned consultations', 'Completed Consultations and Feedback', and 'Register for Alerts'.

Merton Climate Change Update

Katie Halter,
Climate Change Officer
February 2020

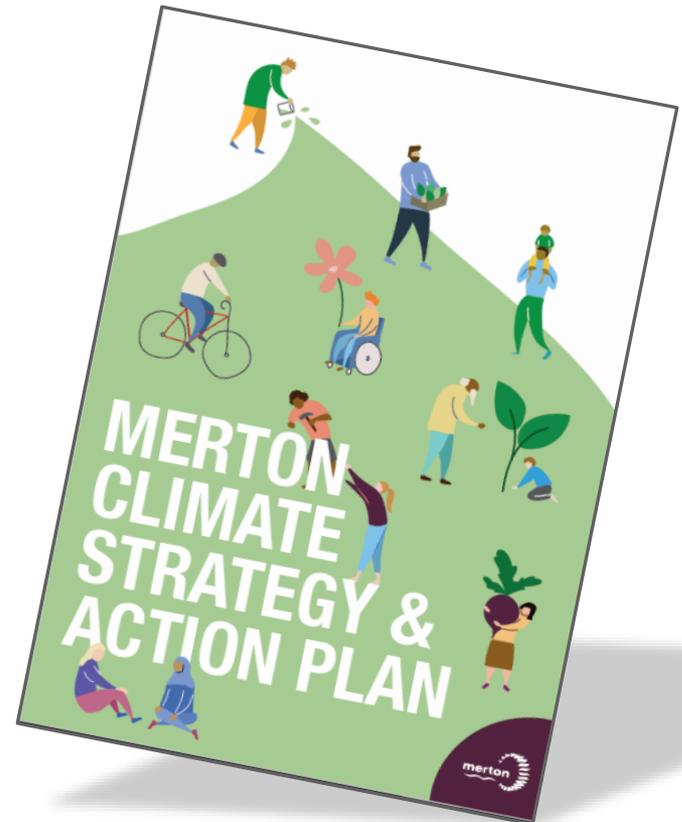


A framework to meet net-zero targets....

Since the Declaration of a climate emergency, we have developed a sound strategic approach and a framework for delivery.

Page 3
Merton's Climate Strategy and Action Plan was adopted in November 2020.

Climate Delivery Plan – Year 1
adopted in January 2021



Merton Climate Action Plan

19%
of borough emissions

Transport

What you can do:

Reduce car use in favour of walking and cycling

Switch to ultra-low emission vehicles such as electric

Schools and businesses adopt travel plans

Avoid flying

What the Council will do:

Support new cycle paths and wider pavements

Work with TfL for faster transport decarbonisation and vehicle share schemes

Consult on emission-based parking charges

81%
of borough emissions

Buildings & Energy

What the Council will do:

Require new buildings to be low carbon and resilient to the impacts of climate change

Lobby for tighter regulations and further funding for low carbon buildings

What you can do:

Save energy by switching off appliances and turning down the heating

Use green electricity

Avoid gas by buying a low carbon heating system (e.g. a heat pump)

Invest in insulation and renewable energy

-0.1%
of borough emissions

Green spaces

What you can do:

Grow vegetation around your home

Remove paving from your front garden to plant trees

Join or sponsor a community planting group

What the Council will do:

Maintain existing green spaces and plant more trees

Major contributor of emissions

Green Economy

What the Council will do:

Encourage waste reduction

Help build low carbon skills

Encourage green businesses

What you can do:

Buy green and local products

Eat less meat, fish and dairy

Reuse items and buy products with less packaging



Actions in 2020

We continued to reduce emissions from the Council's estate.

Shift to 100% **renewable electricity.**

Completed LED **streetlight programme.**

Bid for £0.5 M grant to **decarbonise children's centres** and community buildings.



Actions in 2020

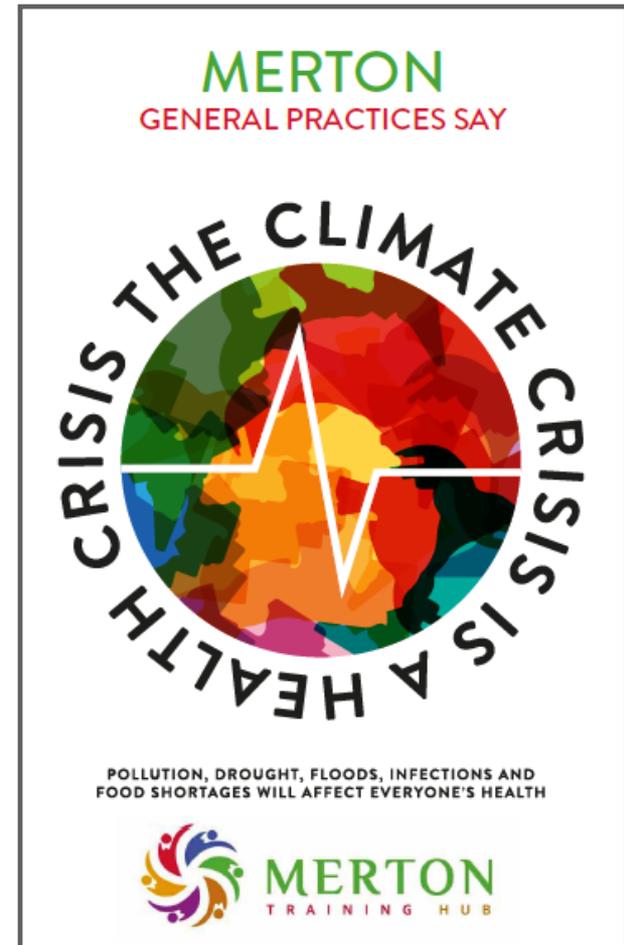
We continued to support emissions reductions within the borough

£400,000 of **Neighbourhood Fund** allocated to climate reduction projects

More funding for **Warmer Homes** Project

Draft **Local Plan** policies consistent with Climate targets

Campaigns to support change, such as Climate Champions in GP practices.



Coming up in 2021

Register for new **email updates**

Google “Merton climate emergency”

Sign up to receive future updates on
Merton's Climate Strategy and Action Plan

Make a climate change pledge

Pledge to make Merton a net-zero carbon borough by 2050.

Make your climate change pledge

Make a **pledge**

Google “Merton climate pledge”

Solar Together – round 3 is open!

<https://www.solartogether.co.uk/merton/home>



Join the **Climate Action Group**

Google “Merton climate action group”

How the Climate Action Group will work

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Want to take action?
Have an idea?

Come to a meeting

Build a carbon reduction project

Zero CO₂



Climate Action Group Structure

Co-Chairs

Ramya Venkataraman: cag.engagement@gmail.com
Cllr Martin Whelton: Martin.Whelton@merton.gov.uk

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Engagement and Funding

Ramya Venkataraman: cag.engagement@gmail.com

Green Economy

Diana Sterck
Carola Grillo
cag.greenconomy@gmail.com

Buildings and Energy

Alban Thursdon
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Transport

Luke McCarthy
Mehmood
Naqshbandi
Transport.CAG.Merton@gmail.com

Greening Merton

Kelly Gunnell
cag.greeningmerton@gmail.com

Group Support

Dominique Hill: Dominique.Hill@merton.gov.uk
Katie Halter: Katie.Halter@merton.gov.uk

Next Steps

Meeting dates

Wednesday 31st March – Greening Merton

Wednesday 28th April – Building & Energy

Wednesday 26th May – Transport

Wednesday 30th June – Progress Meeting

Keep in touch

- Check the Climate Action Group website or sign up for climate updates
- Contact a community lead or climate change officer

End



COVID-19 update

Mitcham Community Forum

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Barry Causer
Head of Strategic Commissioning (Public Health)

24th February 2021

Minute Item 8



AIMS AND PURPOSE

- Brief overview of COVID impact on Merton's communities so far
- Brief overview of updates and developments
- Set out the spring 'road-map'
- Set out some opportunities for action

Summary key messages

Cases (11th Feb – 17th Feb):

- 7 day case rate (all ages) **132.3 cases per 100,000** (down from 206.4 previous week).
- 7 day case rate (among 60+) **149.6 cases per 100,000** (down from 221.7 previous week).
- There were **284** new COVID cases in Merton.
- New COVID variant: estimated to be responsible for 100% of cases in Merton for week ending 12th Feb.

Deaths:

- There were **19** new registered Merton COVID death for the week ending 5th Feb.
- In total Merton has seen 423 deaths due to COVID.

Testing (9th Feb – 15th Feb / pillar 2 PCR tests only – this excludes Lateral Flow tests):

- 7 day testing rate **326.0 daily tests per 100,000** (down from 525.5 previous week)
- 7 day test positivity decreased to **5.4%**.

Vaccinations (as of 7st February):

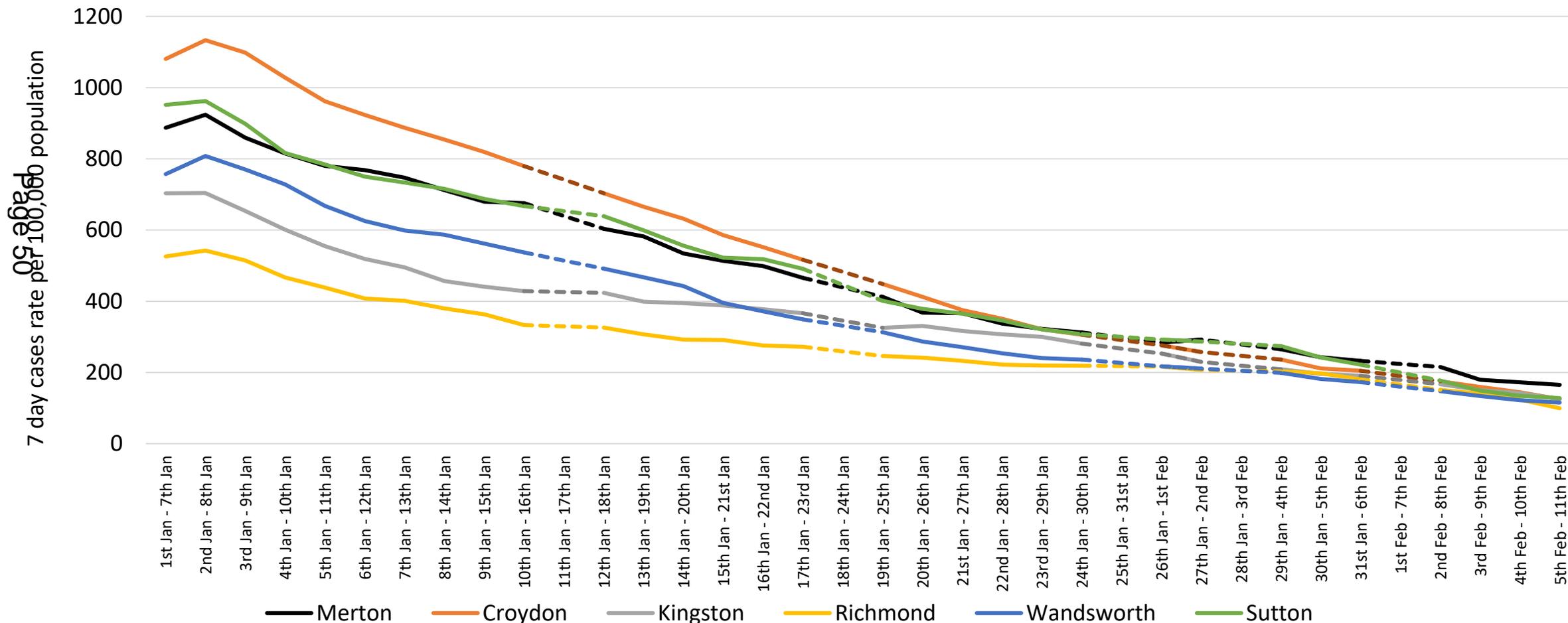
- **84.0%** of over 80s in SWL have received 1st dose of COVID vaccine (78.4% in London)

Rolling 7-day rate of confirmed positive cases per 100,000 population in Merton compared to other South West London boroughs (Pillar 1 & 2)

Source: PHE/PHEC Daily Report

Reporting frequency: Daily

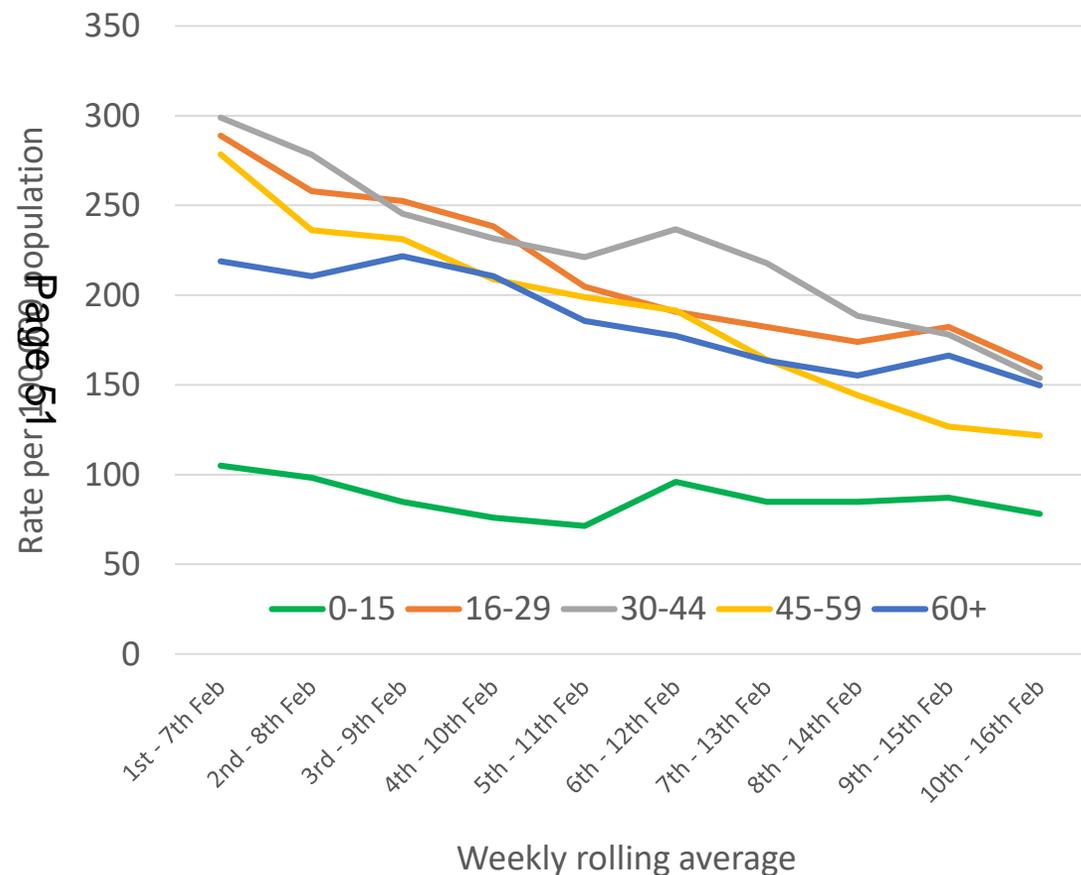
Key message: Merton has the highest rate of cases among SWL boroughs



Please note there were reporting gaps – the dotted lines refers to periods when data was not available.

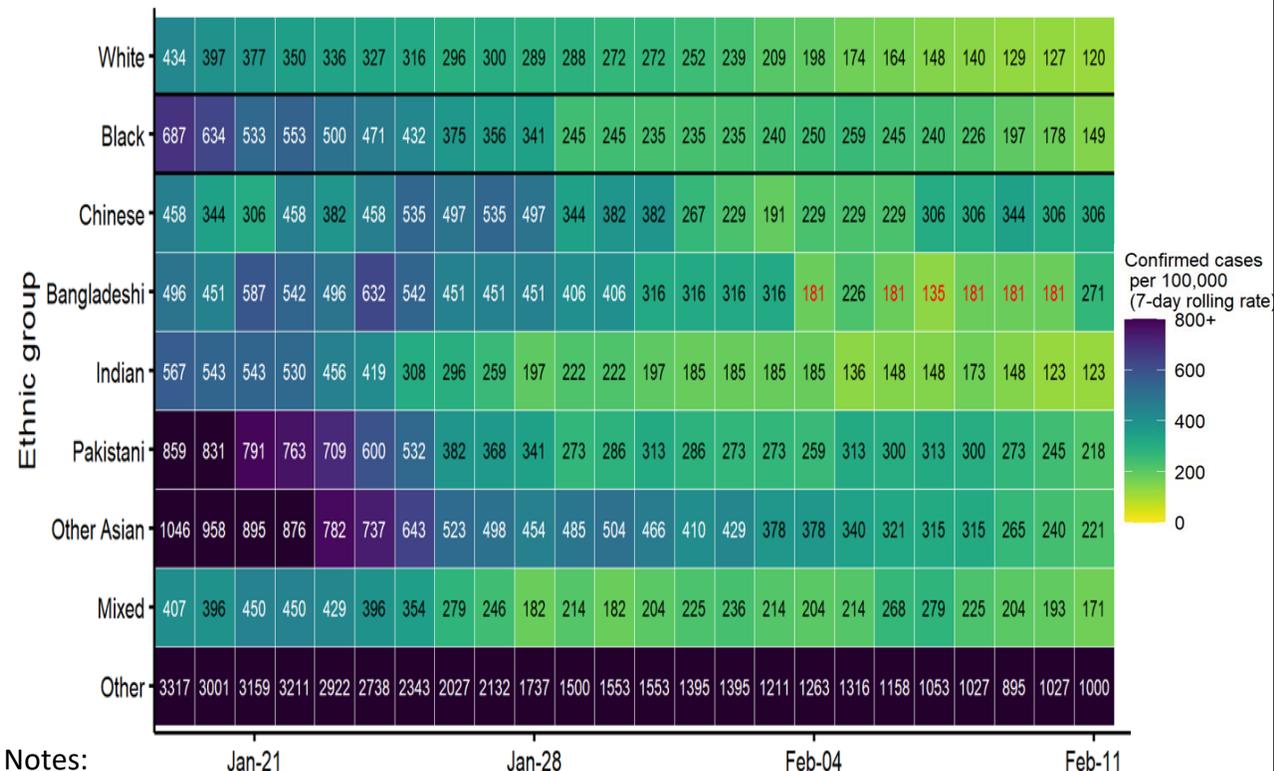
Merton PCR confirmed COVID-19 case rates by age & ethnicity (Pillar 2 only)

7 day rolling average Merton PCR-confirmed Pillar 2 case rates by age groups



Source: LSAT daily line list

Heat Map showing PCR-confirmed COVID-19 Pillar 2 cases in Merton by ethnicity (19th Jan to 11th Feb 2021).



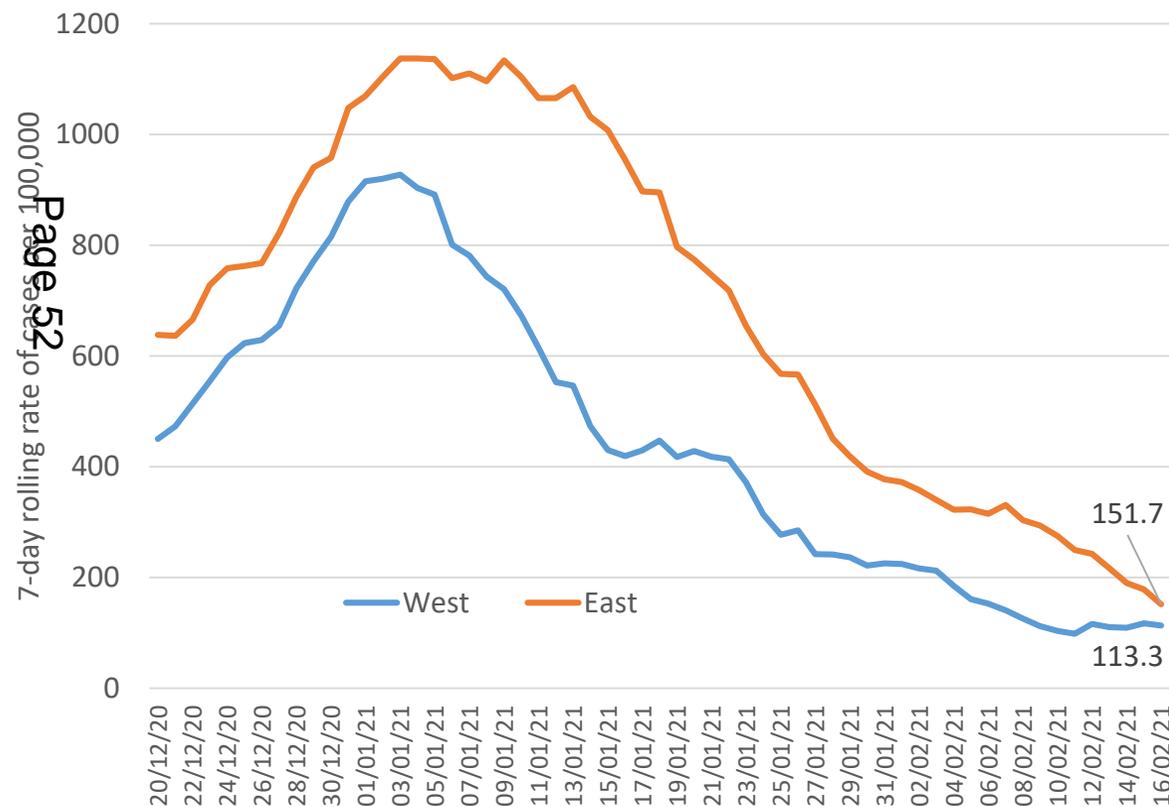
Notes:

- 4 most recent days excluded due to reporting delays.
- 6.5% are classified as Not Available or Unknown, and so have been excluded.
- Text in red rates should be interpreted with caution as underlying case numbers are <5.

Source: LA Report Merton, PHE

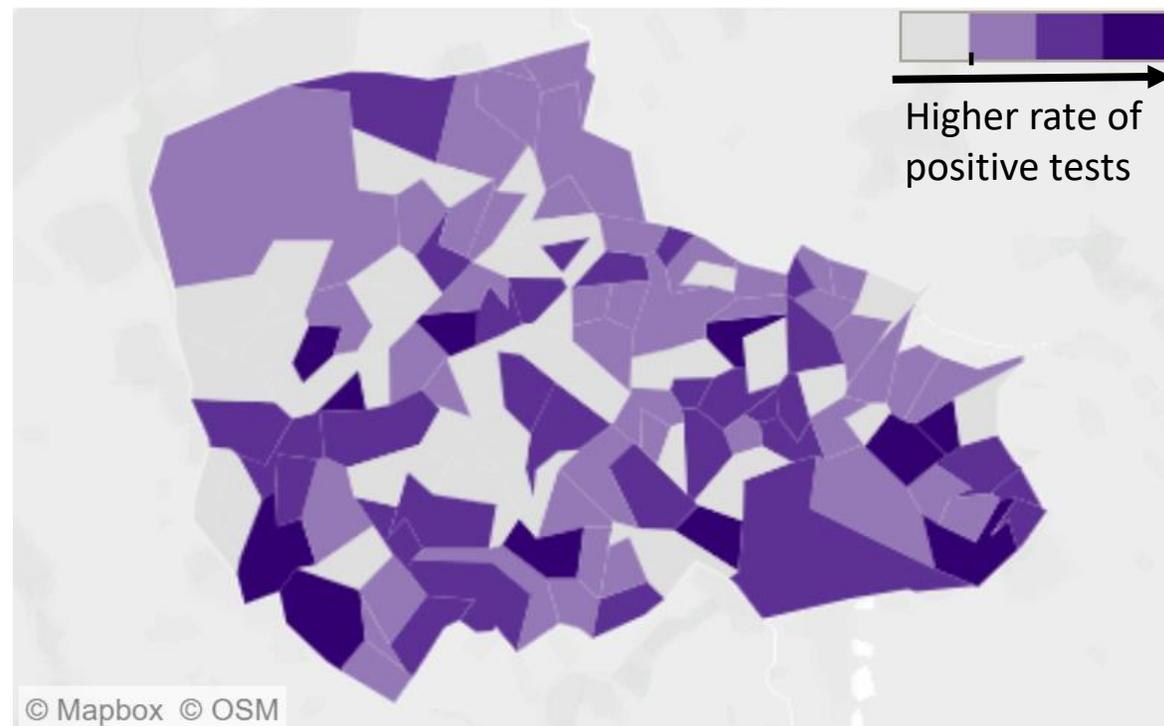
Merton PCR confirmed COVID-19 case rates across the borough

7-day rolling Pillar 1 and 2 PCR-confirmed COVID-19 case rates per 100,000 population in East and West Merton



Source: LSAT daily line list

PCR 7-day rate of Pillar 2 positive tests per 100,000 population in Merton by LSOA * (to 14th Feb)



* LSOA: Lower Super Output Area

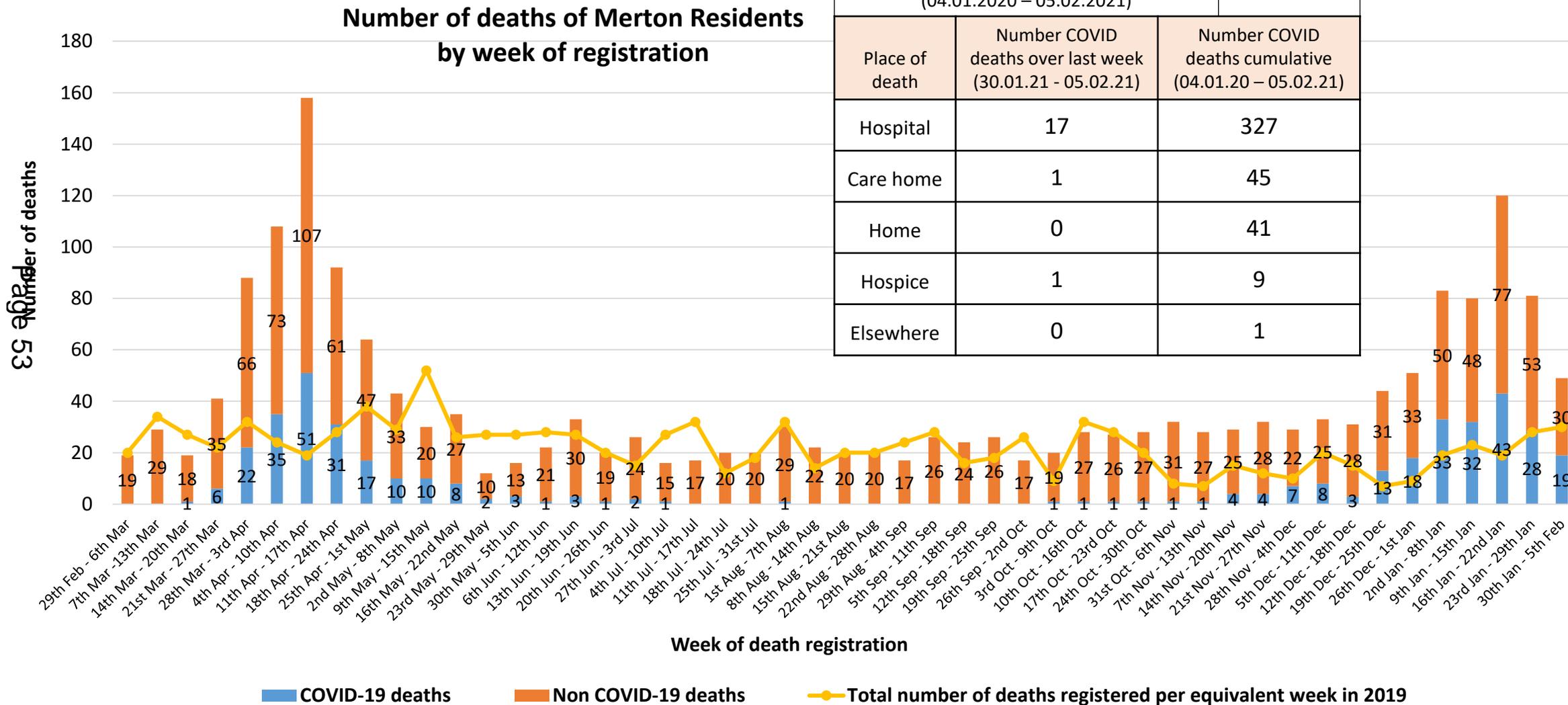
Source: NHS Containment Dashboard

Number of deaths of Merton Residents by week of registration

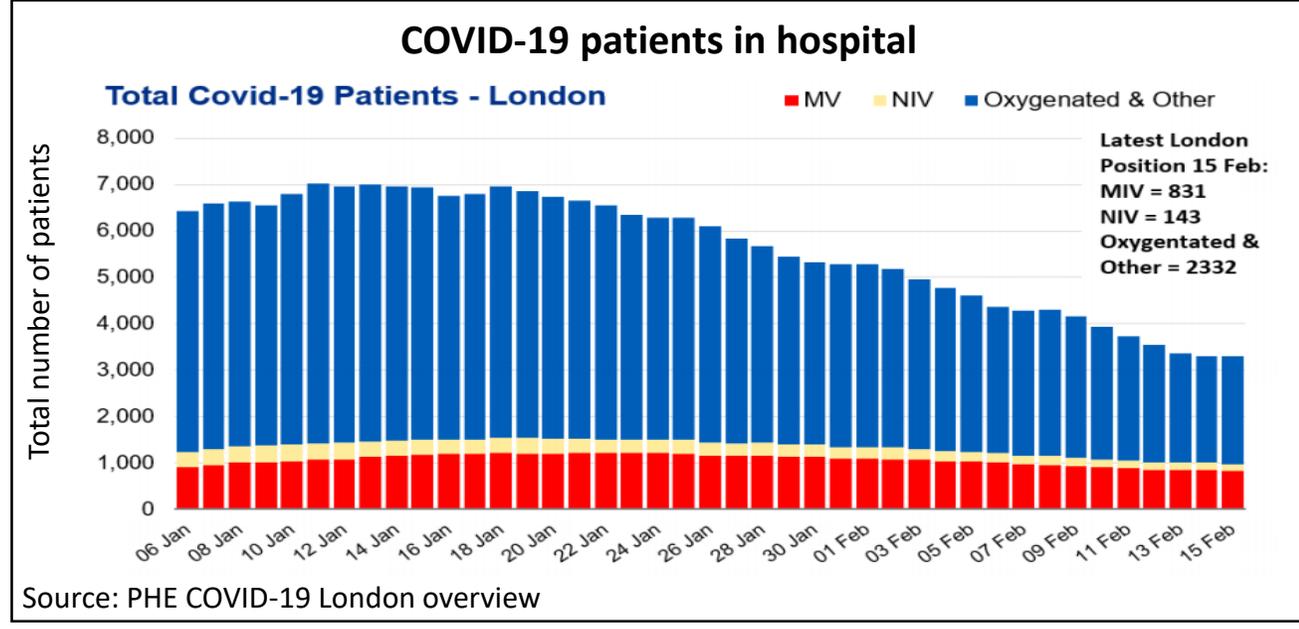
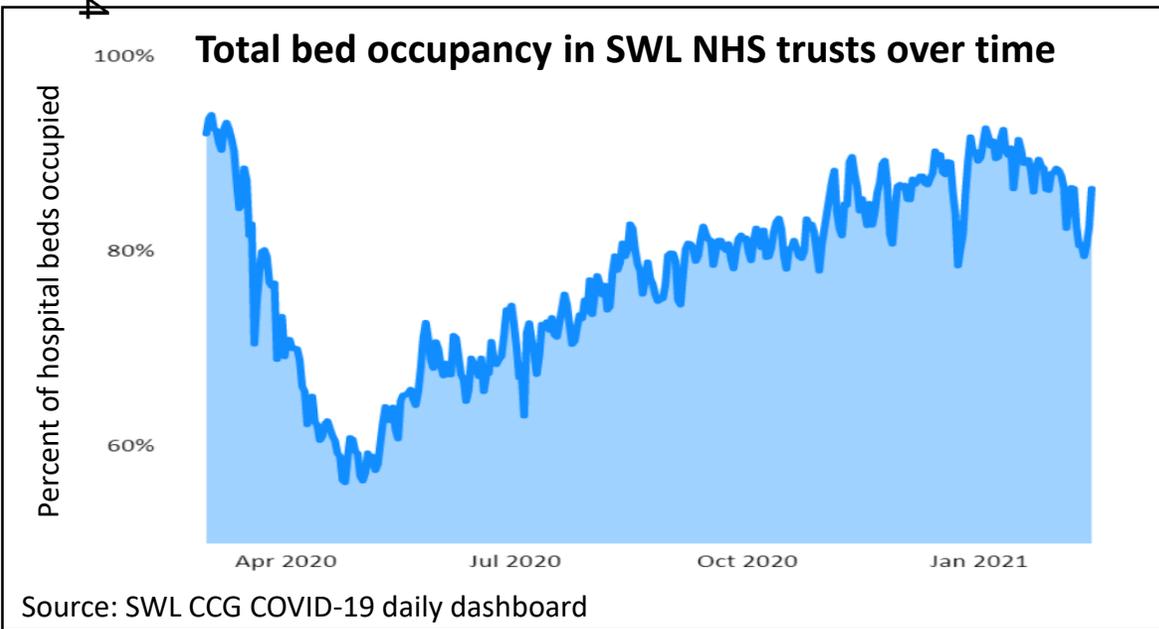
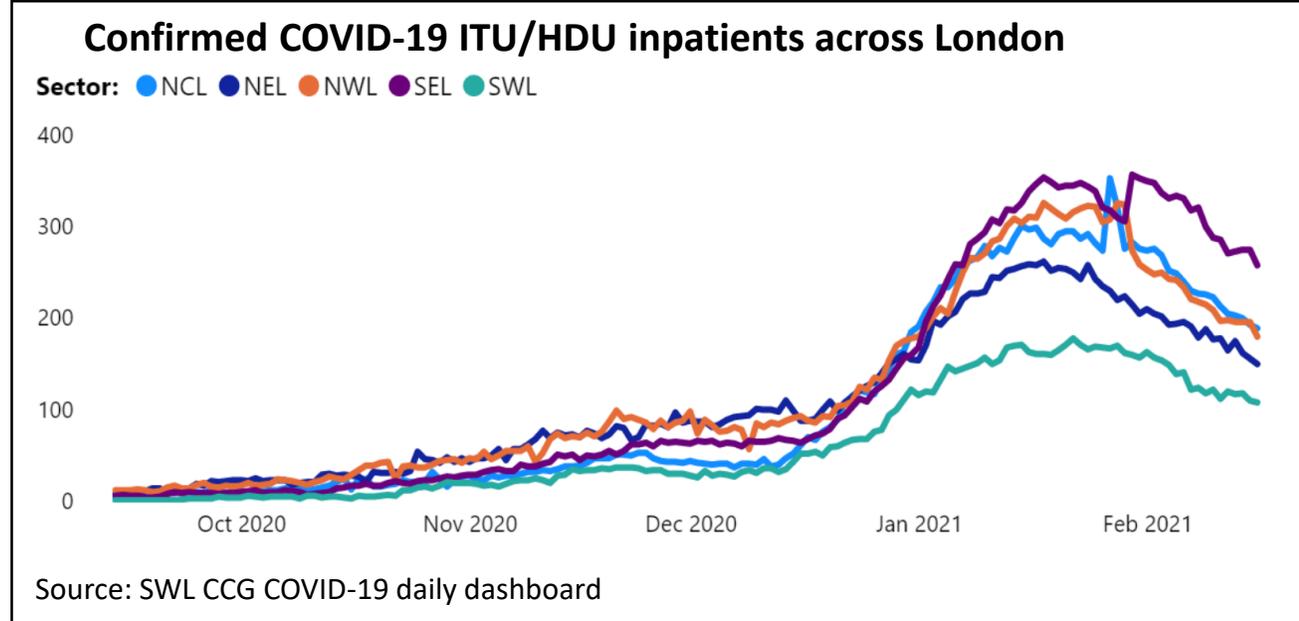
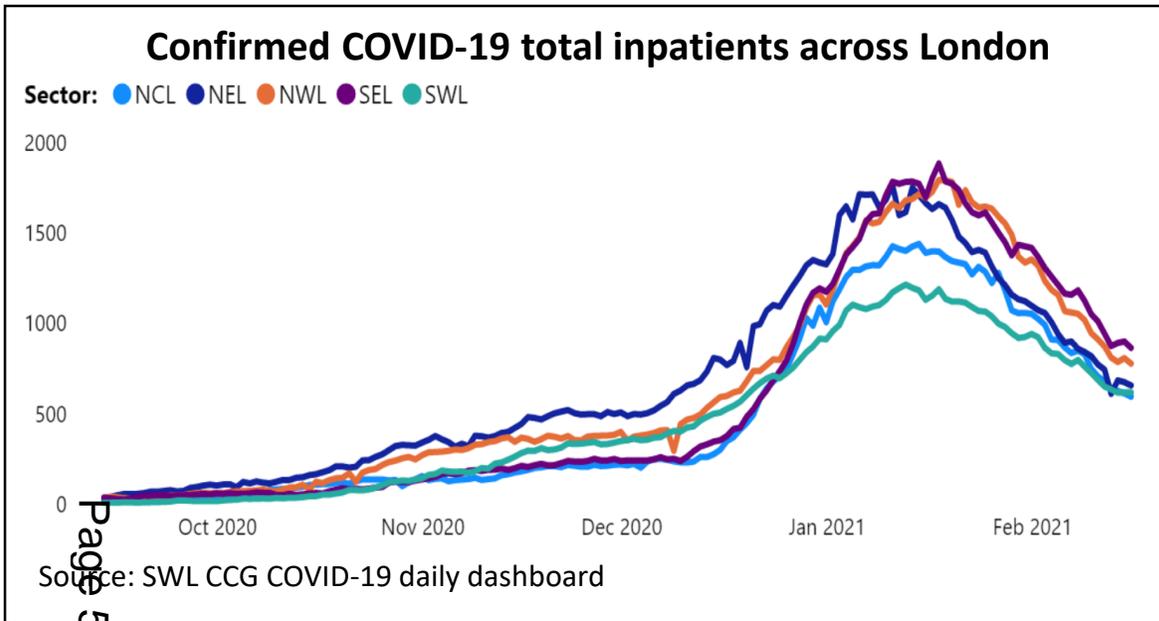
Source: ONS

Reporting frequency: Weekly

Cumulative number of COVID related deaths registered in Merton (04.01.2020 – 05.02.2021)		423
Place of death	Number COVID deaths over last week (30.01.21 - 05.02.21)	Number COVID deaths cumulative (04.01.20 – 05.02.21)
Hospital	17	327
Care home	1	45
Home	0	41
Hospice	1	9
Elsewhere	0	1



COVID-19 and NHS-related indicators for London (all figures are numbers unless stated)



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COVID-19 Response - Spring Roadmap

STEP 1 8 March 29 March

EDUCATION

- 8 MARCH**
- Schools and colleges open for all students
 - Practical Higher Education courses

SOCIAL CONTACT

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>8 MARCH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exercise and recreation outdoors with household or one other person Household only indoors | <p>29 MARCH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rule of 6 or two households outdoors Household only indoors |
|---|---|

BUSINESS & ACTIVITIES

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>8 MARCH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wraparound care, including sport, for all children | <p>29 MARCH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organised outdoor sport (children and adults) Outdoor sport and leisure facilities All outdoor children's activities Outdoor parent & child group (max 15 people, excluding under 5s) |
|--|---|

TRAVEL

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>8 MARCH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay at home No holidays | <p>29 MARCH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise travel No holidays |
|---|---|

EVENTS

- Funerals (30)
- Weddings and wakes (6)

STEP 2 No earlier than 12 April

At least 5 weeks after Step 1

EDUCATION

- As previous step

SOCIAL CONTACT

- Rule of 6 or two households outdoors
- Household only indoors

BUSINESS & ACTIVITIES

- All retail
- Personal care
- Libraries & community centres
- Most outdoor attractions
- Indoor leisure inc. gyms (individual use only)
- Self-contained accommodation
- All children's activities
- Outdoor hospitality
- Indoor parent & child groups (max 15 people, excluding under 5s)

TRAVEL

- Domestic overnight stays (household only)
- No international holidays

EVENTS

- Funerals (30)
- Weddings, wakes, receptions (15)
- Event pilots

STEP 3 No earlier than 17 May

At least 5 weeks after Step 2

EDUCATION

- As previous step

SOCIAL CONTACT

- Maximum 30 people outdoors
- Rule of 6 or two households indoors (subject to review)

BUSINESS & ACTIVITIES

- Indoor hospitality
- Indoor entertainment and attractions
- Organised indoor sport (adult)
- Remaining accommodation
- Remaining outdoor entertainment (including performances)

TRAVEL

- Domestic overnight stays
- International travel (subject to review)

EVENTS

- Most significant life events (30)
- Indoor events: 1,000 or 50% (plus pilots)
- Outdoor seated events: 10,000 or 25% (plus pilots)
- Outdoor other events: 4,000 or 50% (plus pilots)

STEP 4 No earlier than 21 June

At least 5 weeks after Step 3

All subject to review

EDUCATION

- As previous step

SOCIAL CONTACT

- No legal limit

BUSINESS & ACTIVITIES

- Remaining businesses, including nightclubs

TRAVEL

- Domestic overnight stays
- International travel

EVENTS

- No legal limit on life events
- Larger events

KEY UPDATES AND DEVELOPMENTS

- ✓ **Enhanced testing programme in Pollards Hill** set-up, to track any community spread and restrict any further transmission closed on 17/02. Fantastic response from residents, workplaces, schools and voluntary sector; with 10,000 test kits given out. So far no additional VOC reported in Merton. Findings and lessons learnt being collated; which will be shared with the Community.
- ✓ We are supporting 6,540 **high-risk (previously known as CEV)** residents and an extra c7,000 who have recently been added to the list. We would encourage all those residents to stay at home, until 31st March, as much as possible and follow advice in letters sent by Government and LBM.
- ✓ **Test and Trace (and Isolate)** is a critical part of controlling virus spread.
 - ✓ Anyone with symptoms, even mild, should self-isolate immediately and seek a test via www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or call 119.
 - ✓ We strongly encourage front-line staff, carers and volunteers to continue to take part in **regular asymptomatic testing**. There is no walk-up testing, all tests must be booked at <https://www.merton.gov.uk/coronavirus/lateral-flow-test>
 - ✓ If positive result, its vital to stay at home to break chain of transmission and respond to NHS Test and Trace calls and messages.
- ✓ **Vaccination roll out** continuing by NHS. In line with JCVI priority list, residents 65 to 69 and those Clinically Vulnerable are now being invited. Further info at <https://swlondonccg.nhs.uk/your-area/merton/merton-covid-19-vaccination-programme-update/> Vaccine Equity Plan is development and a number of webinars taking place, led by Clinicians, to answer questions e.g. barriers to vaccination.

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION

- Join our network of **152** COVID-19 Community Champions; a key part of our approach to preventing and managing outbreaks in Merton.
- Drop-in sessions every Wednesday (12pm-1pm and 7pm-8pm).
- Sign up for Merton COVID-19 newsletter – www.merton.gov.uk/newsletter
- For more information contact public.health@merton.gov.uk
- Merton Giving grants – So far £79k and 20 orgs supported. Next deadline 10/03 <https://www.mvsc.co.uk/MertonGivingRRRF> und

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Young Adults COVID-19 Community Champions (YACCC)

Are you 18-30yrs?

Martin

Lurdes

Anna

Toby

We need you!

Interested in helping your community through the COVID-19 pandemic?

YACCC is a key part of our response to COVID-19 in Merton

Run by young adults, for young adults

Become a member today

JOIN US!

The next session is about health and **WELL BEING**

Next meeting:
3rd March
6pm - 7.30pm

Join us via eventbrite:
[covidvaccineqa.eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/covidvaccineqa)

my voice
merton youth



WASH HANDS

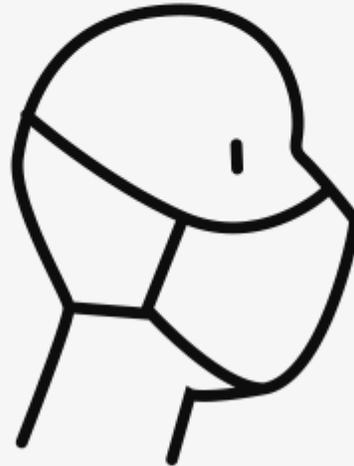
For 20 seconds



1.

COVER FACE

In enclosed spaces



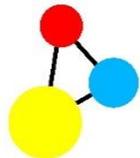
2.

MAKE SPACE

2 metres where possible
or 1 metre with
extra precautions



3.



ANY QUESTIONS?

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