

# Merton Council

## Council Meeting

### Membership

**The Mayor:** Councillor Joan Henry

**The Deputy Mayor:** Councillor Agatha Mary Akyigyina OBE

**Councillors:** Sally Kenny, Stephen Alambritis MBE, Laxmi Attawar, Thomas Barlow, Hina Bokhari, Mike Brunt, Billy Christie, Caroline Cooper-Marbiah, Anthony Fairclough, Edward Foley, Brenda Fraser, Jenifer Gould, Daniel Holden, Andrew Howard, Natasha Irons, Linda Kirby MBE, Paul Kohler, Edith Macauley MBE, Peter McCabe, Simon McGrath, Nick McLean, Aidan Mundy, Dennis Pearce, Marsie Skeete, Eleanor Stringer, Martin Whelton, Helena Dollimore, James Williscroft, Sheri-Ann Bhim, John Braithwaite, Michael Butcher, Caroline Charles, Eleanor Cox, Klaar Dresselaers, Chessie Flack, Kirsten Galea, Ross Garrod, Jil Hall, Billy Hayes, Susie Hicks, Dan Johnston, Andrew Judge, Usaama Kaweesa, Samantha MacArthur, Gill Manly, Stephen Mercer, Stuart Neaverson, John Oliver, Robert Page, Michael Paterson, Tony Reiss, Slawek Szczepanski, Matthew Willis, Max Austin and Victoria Wilson

**Date: Wednesday 1 February 2023**

**Time: 7.15 pm**

**Venue: Council chamber - Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden SM4 5DX**

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[democratic.services@merton.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@merton.gov.uk) or telephone [020 8545 3357](tel:02085453357).

All Press contacts: [communications@merton.gov.uk](mailto:communications@merton.gov.uk), 020 8545 3181

# Council Meeting

## 1 February 2023

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**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. For further advice please speak with the Managing Director, South London Legal Partnership.

Partnership.

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# Agenda Item 3

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COUNCIL

16 NOVEMBER 2022

(7.15 pm - 9.43 pm)

PRESENT

(in the Chair), Councillor Joan Henry,  
Councillor Agatha Mary Akyigyina,  
Councillor Stephen Alambritis, Councillor Laxmi Attawar,  
Councillor Thomas Barlow, Councillor Hina Bokhari,  
Councillor Michael Brunt, Councillor Billy Christie,  
Councillor Caroline Cooper-Marbiah,  
Councillor Anthony Fairclough, Councillor Edward Foley,  
Councillor Brenda Fraser, Councillor Jenifer Gould,  
Councillor Joan Henry, Councillor Daniel Holden,  
Councillor Andrew Howard, Councillor Natasha Irons,  
Councillor Linda Kirby, Sally Kenny, Councillor Paul Kohler,  
Councillor Edith Macauley, Councillor Peter McCabe,  
Councillor Simon McGrath, Councillor Nick McLean,  
Councillor Aidan Mundy, Councillor Dennis Pearce,  
Councillor Marsie Skeete, Councillor Eleanor Stringer,  
Councillor Martin Whelton, Councillor Helena Dollimore,  
Councillor James Williscroft, Councillor Sheri-Ann Bhim,  
Councillor John Braithwaite, Councillor Michael Butcher,  
Councillor Caroline Charles, Councillor Eleanor Cox,  
Councillor Klaar Dresselaers, Councillor Chessie Flack,  
Councillor Kirsten Galea, Councillor Ross Garrod,  
Councillor Jil Hall, Councillor Billy Hayes, Councillor Susie Hicks,  
Councillor Dan Johnston, Councillor Andrew Judge,  
Councillor Usaama Kaweesa, Councillor Samantha MacArthur,  
Councillor Gill Manly, Councillor Stephen Mercer,  
Councillor Stuart Neaverson, Councillor John Oliver,  
Councillor Robert Page, Councillor Michael Paterson,  
Councillor Tony Reiss, Councillor Slawek Szczepanski,  
Councillor Matthew Willis, Councillor Max Austin and  
Councillor Victoria Wilson

## 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

A minutes' silence was observed by all present following the death of former Councillor and Mayor Tony Nicholson.

There were no apologies for absence. Councillor Skeete attended remotely.

## 2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST (Agenda Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Agenda Item 3)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 5 September, 21 September and the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 21 September were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Mayor.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE (Agenda Item 4)

The Leader provided an update on the situation at Galpins Road.

There were no announcements from the Chief Executive.

The Mayor then provided a brief update on her recent and upcoming events and activities.

5 PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS (Agenda Item 5)

The responses to the written public questions were circulated prior to the meeting. There were no supplementary questions received.

6 COUNCILLORS' ORDINARY PRIORITY QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS (Agenda Item 6)

The responses to the written member ordinary priority questions were circulated prior to the meeting. The Mayor then invited each of the members in turn to ask (if they wished) a further question to the Cabinet Member. A copy of the supplementary questions and responses will be included in the 'member ordinary priority questions to Cabinet Members' published document.

7a STRATEGIC THEME: MAIN REPORT (Agenda Item 7a)

The Strategic Theme report on promoting a dynamic connected and inclusive community; an economy with safe vibrant high streets and jobs for our residents, with a focus on supporting our diverse community by working with Merton's Voluntary and Community Sector was moved by Councillor Stringer and seconded by Councillor Szczepanski.

The Liberal Democrat Amendment to the report was moved by Councillor Kohler and seconded by Councillor MacArthur.

Councillors Bhim, Hall, Howard and Willis also spoke on the item.

The Liberal Democrat Amendment was put to the vote and fell: Votes For: 26, Votes against: 29, Abstentions: 1.

RESOLVED: That the Strategic Theme report is agreed.

7b STRATEGIC THEME: COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS (Agenda Item 7b)

The responses to the written member strategic theme priority questions were circulated prior to the meeting. The Mayor then invited each of the members in turn to ask (if they wished) a further question to the Cabinet Member. A copy of the supplementary questions and responses will be included in the 'member strategic theme priority questions to Cabinet Members' published document.

It was also noted that a copy of the remaining Member questions and responses will be published after the meeting, in line with Constitutional requirements.

7c STRATEGIC THEME: MOTIONS (Agenda Item 7c)

There were no Strategic Theme motions submitted.

8 REPORT OF THE RAYNES PARK COMMUNITY FORUM: 20 SEPTEMBER 2022 (Agenda Item 8)

Councillor Willis presented the report which was received by the Council.

9 REPORT OF THE WIMBLEDON COMMUNITY FORUM: 5 OCTOBER 2022 (Agenda Item 9)

Councillor Kohler presented the report which was received by the Council.

10 REPORT OF THE MITCHAM COMMUNITY FORUM: 6 OCTOBER 2022 (Agenda Item 10)

Councillor Mundy presented the report which was received by the Council.

11 REPORT OF THE COLLIERS WOOD COMMUNITY FORUM: 11 OCTOBER 2022 (Agenda Item 11)

Councillor Kirby presented the report which was received by the Council.

12 REPORT OF THE MORDEN COMMUNITY FORUM: 19 OCTOBER 2022 (Agenda Item 12)

Councillor Charles presented the report which was received by the Council.

13 NOTICE OF MOTION - CONSERVATIVE MOTION (Agenda Item 13)

The motion was moved by Councillor Holden and seconded by Councillor Barlow.

The Liberal Democrat amendment as set out in agenda item 22 was moved by Councillor Fairclough and seconded by Councillor Braithwaite.

The Liberal Democrat amendment was put to the vote and fell – votes in favour: 26, votes against: 29, abstentions: 1.

The Labour amendment as set out in agenda item 22 was moved by Councillor Irons and seconded by Councillor Johnston.

Councillor Fairclough spoke on the item.

The Labour amendment was put to a vote and was carried – votes in favour: 29, votes against: 26, abstentions: 1.

The substantive motion (as amended) was then put to a vote and was carried – votes in favour: 29, votes against: 9, abstentions: 18.

#### RESOLVED:

This Council recognises that despite fortnightly wheeled bin collections driving Merton's recycling rate to 7th highest in London and improvements delivered through the Labour administration issuing Veolia with a service improvement notice, the current contract has not performed to the standard we want.

This Council believes that residents must have confidence in any new arrangement that the Council enters into. The future contract must deliver:

- A specification that gives clear performance standards that officers, Councillors and our community can hold to account.
- A waste collection service that responds to the concerns of residents.
- A service that Keeps Merton clean.
- On time collections for all property types.
- Removal of fly tipping within an agreed timeframe.
- Continued increases in recycling rates for all parts of the borough
- The flexibility to deliver a great service for all parts of the borough.
- Digital innovation to make the service more responsive and transparent.

Council notes plans to take proposals for the future waste and street cleaning service to a special pre-decision Scrutiny meeting, where Councillors and members of the public can scrutinise any future plans, and that this special meeting will be live streamed on Merton Council's You Tube channel.

Therefore, Council calls upon the Cabinet to take account of the outcome of the current resident engagement and consultation in shaping the future waste and street cleaning service.

14 COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2023/24 (Agenda Item 14)



The report was moved by Councillor Christie and seconded by Councillor Garrod.

The Liberal Democrat Amendment was moved by Councillor Oliver and seconded by Councillor Page.

Councillor McLean also spoke on the item.

The Liberal Democrat amendment was put to the vote and fell: votes in favour: 26, against:29, abstentions: 1.

The report was put to the vote and agreed.

RESOLVED:

1. That the updating revisions for the 2023/24 council tax support scheme detailed in the report be agreed, in order to maintain low council tax charges for those on lower incomes and other vulnerable residents.
2. That Council agrees the proposed revisions to the 2023/24 scheme.

#### 15 SOUTH LONDON WASTE PLAN (Agenda Item 15)

The report was moved by Councillor Judge and seconded by Councillor Garrod.

Councillor Reiss spoke on the item.

RESOLVED:

- A. That Council adopts the South London Waste Plan as part of Merton's statutory Local Plan and subsequent updating of Merton's statutory Policies Map, subject to any amendments necessary in order to give effect to any recommendations contained in the Final Report from the Planning Inspectors and that authority to make such amendments be delegated to the Executive Director of Housing and Sustainable Development in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Sustainable Development.
- B. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director of Housing and Sustainable Development to deal with all the necessary adoption documents and other consequential matters in accordance with the appropriate Regulations.

#### 16 MID-YEAR TREASURY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE REPORT (Agenda Item 16)

The report was moved by Councillor Christie and seconded by Councillor Garrod.

Councillors Oliver and McLean spoke on the item.

The report was put to a vote and agreed – votes in favour: 38, against: 17, abstentions:1.

RESOLVED:

A. That Council note the update on Treasury Management

B. That Council delegates authority to the Executive Director of Finance and Digital (S151 officer) to make short term treasury investment decisions, even if those investments would not currently be in accordance with the Council's Treasury Management Strategy, based on current market conditions/interest rates movements and funds availability to maximise investment returns. The Annual Treasury Management Strategy for FY2023/24 will be presented to the Council in March 2023.

#### 17 APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT PERSON (Agenda Item 17)

The report was moved by Councillor Brunt and seconded by Councillor Oliver.

RESOLVED:

A. That Council agrees to appoint Katy Willison for a further three year period as an Independent Person for the purposes of Chapter 7 of the Localism Act. The Independent Person will be invited to attend meetings of the Standards and General Purposes Committee in that capacity.

B. That the appointment is made for a period of three years from 6 February 2023

#### 18 CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND RELATED MATTERS (Agenda Item 18)

The report was formally moved by Councillor Garrod and formally seconded by Councillor Stringer.

RESOLVED:

That the Council:

1. Notes the changes to the membership of Committees that were approved under delegated authority since the last meeting of the Council

#### 19 PETITIONS (Agenda Item 19)

The report was formally moved by Councillor Garrod and formally seconded by Councillor Stringer.

RESOLVED

That Council

1. Notes the update on the petitions received at the last meeting,
2. Accepts receipt of petitions presented by:
  - Councillor Fairclough entitled “Pesticide use in Merton”
  - Councillor McLean entitled “K5 Bus Shelter Motspur Park Village”
  - Councillor Gould entitled “Crossing to be implemented on Bushey Road”

20 BUSINESS FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL  
(Agenda Item 20)

That the Strategic Theme for the next ordinary meeting of the Council, being held on 1 February 2023, shall be Ensure a clean and environmentally sustainable borough with inclusive open spaces where people can come together and enjoy a variety of natural life.

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## 6: Councillors Ordinary Priority Questions to Cabinet Members

### **From Cllr Manly to the Cabinet Member for Finance & Corporate Services**

To date, what support has the Council provided to residents to support them during the Cost of Living Emergency?

### **From Cllr Simon McGrath to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services**

Could the Cabinet member please tell me the total of the cost of works planned under the recent Workplace Design Property Infrastructure Procurement decision:

- a. On the first floor; and
- b. On the seventh floor

Of the Civic Centre,

And similarly, the cost of new furniture planned under the recent Workplace Design Furniture Procurement decision:

- c. for rooms on the first floor; and
- d. for rooms on the seventh floor

Of the Civic Centre?

### **From Cllr Bhim to the Cabinet Member for Sport & Heritage**

What were the results from the recent Libraries Customer Satisfaction Survey?

### **From Cllr Nick McLean to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services:**

The Conservative Group congratulate the management of CHAS for their expertise in establishing the company as a market leader, evidenced by the sale price achieved for the company. Please can the Cabinet Member provide an update on what the administration proposes to do with the proceeds of the sale?

### **From Cllr Kirsten Galea to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services**

I was grateful for the opportunity to tour the Civic Centre with Officers recently to see how we might be able to make improvements to accessibility for our residents and visitors. Would the Cabinet Member please set out his plans and associated timelines for refurbishing the reception, including installing a Changing Places Toilet?

### **From Cllr Brunt to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Civic Pride**

How many organisations will benefit from the Merton Civic Pride Fund: Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector, and how will this funding support capacity, particularly among smaller VCS organisations?

**From Cllr John Oliver to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Sustainable Development**

Can the Cabinet Member advise how many homes are expected to be insulated in Merton during the next financial year as a result of the Warmer Homes programme?

**From Cllr Paul Kohler to the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care**

Residents have expressed their distress to us about the proposed closure of the Dementia Hub at the Eastways Centre as it provides a much needed and valued service to residents and their carers. Would the Cabinet Member please reassure residents and their carers that respite services will continue to be provided, where they will be and how they will be accessed?

**From Cllr Mundy to the Cabinet Member for Housing & Sustainable Development**

How many responses were received to the consultation on landlord licensing and HMO planning controls?

## **Committee: Council**

**Date: 01 February 2023**

Wards: All

**Subject: Strategic Theme Report: Ensure a clean and environmentally sustainable borough with inclusive open spaces where people can come together and enjoy a variety of natural life.**

Lead Officer: Adrian Ash, Interim Executive Director, Environment, Civic Pride & Climate

Lead Members: Councillor Eleanor Stringer, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Civic Pride; Councillor Natasha Irons, Cabinet Member for Local Environment, Greenspaces and Climate Change and Councillor Stephen Alambritis MBE, Cabinet Member for Transport

Contact officer: John Bosley, Assistant Director of Public Space

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### **Recommendations:**

A. That the Council consider the content of this report

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## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1.1. Council, at its meeting on 2nd March 2022, approved the Business Plan for 2022 - 2026 which sets out five strategic priorities and each meeting of the Council receives a report updating against one of the Council's strategic themes.

1.2. The Business Plan set out how the Council will deliver its ambition with five strategic priorities to shape and guide delivery:

- i. Maintaining excellent education and skills for all ages and needs;
- ii. Promote a dynamic, connected and inclusive community and economy with safe, vibrant high streets and jobs for our residents;
- iii. Support residents who are most in need and promote the safety and wellbeing of all our communities;
- iv. Ensure a clean and environmentally sustainable borough with inclusive open spaces where people can come together and enjoy a variety of natural life;
- v. Work to make Merton a fairer, more equal borough and support those on lower income by tackling poverty and fighting for quality affordable housing

1.3. Performance against these priorities is monitored by Council. Each meeting of Council receives a report updating on progress against one of these priorities.

1.4. The administration has set out its three main strategic priorities:

- Nurturing civic pride
- Building a sustainable future
- Creating a borough of sport

1.5. The achievement of these strategic priorities will have extensive engagement with residents, voluntary groups and businesses at their core, building on our partnerships and alliances to reach a common goal.

1.6. This report provides Council with an opportunity to consider progress against the priorities that are to be delivered, specifically under the priority to “Ensure a clean and environmentally sustainable borough with inclusive open spaces where people can come together and enjoy a variety of natural life”, and how they support the achievement of building a better Merton together.

## **2 DETAILS / INTRODUCTION**

2.1. Section 3 of the body of the report provides an overview of how the Council ensures a clean borough, including contract management and service monitoring arrangements, cleansing data, enforcement initiatives and initial findings from the borough-wide consultation on waste services.

2.2. Sections 4,5 and 6 of the report provides an overview on how the Council is working to ensure an environmentally sustainable borough, including air quality, climate change, carbon reduction, energy savings, sustainable travel, tree planting, management of parks and open spaces, volunteering initiatives and partnership working.

2.3. Sections 7 and 8 of the report provide an overview of how the Council ensures inclusive open spaces that enable people to come together and enjoy a variety of natural life, including biodiversity, ensuring high quality parks through the Green Flag Awards Scheme, nature reserves, ensuring the safety of park users, parks cleanliness, access, sporting and events, walk and talks, Friends groups and volunteering projects.

2.4. Sections 9 to 13 cover, financial, resource, legal, human rights, crime and disorder, risk and Health and Safety implications.

## **3 ENSURING A CLEAN BOROUGH**

3.1. To ensure that we deliver a clean borough and that our service provider delivers improvements to the street environment, the Public Space division manages and monitors the street cleansing, recycling and waste operations across the borough.

3.2. Monthly contract meetings are undertaken with the service provider and led by the Head of Service to ensure that improvements in outcomes are being implemented across the range of services delivered.

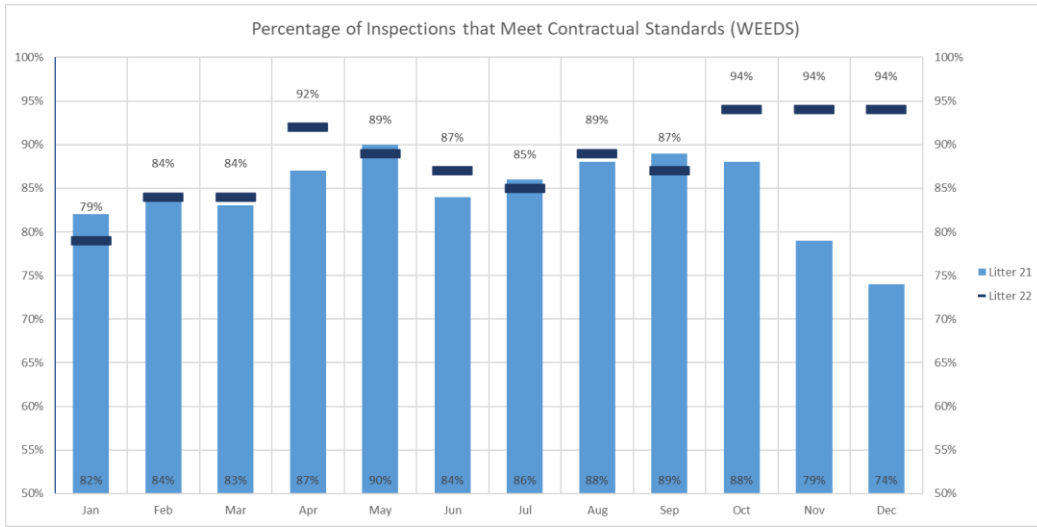
3.3. To support the above, the Public Space Client Officers undertake weekly, monthly and quarterly inspections ensuring that each ward is visited at least once per week in order to assess the level of litter, weeds and detritus separately. In addition to this, known hot spots are inspected daily and all findings' documented, and the appropriate resource deployed to clear any discarded waste.

3.4. The data from these inspections provides an insight into the street cleanliness of Merton's roads over time and all trend analysis is documented as part of the department's monthly reporting process.

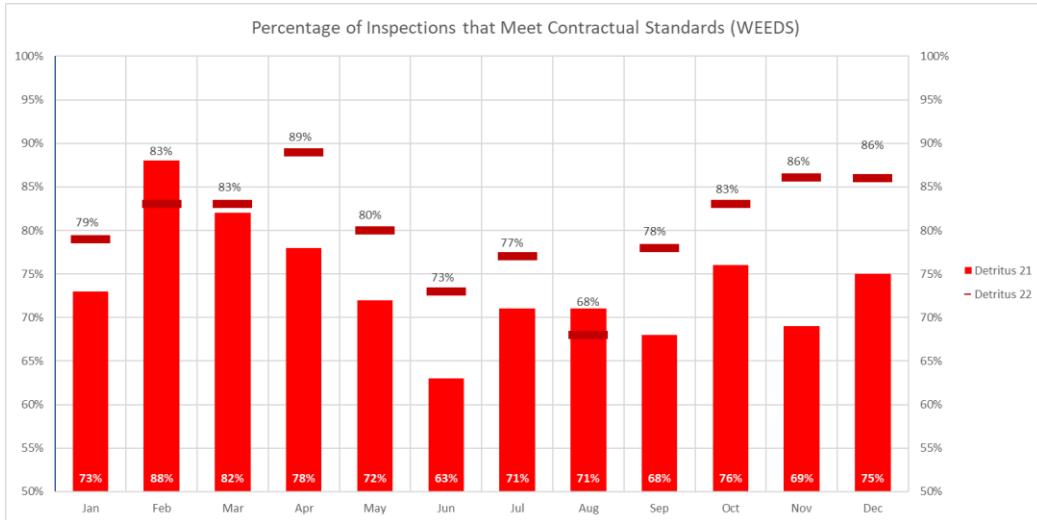
3.5. The three graphs below illustrate the comparison of grading following these street inspections which meet the required standard for street litter, detritus and weeds in 2022 and the previous year.



**Graph 1: Percentage of Inspections that meet Contractual Standards (Litter) 2021/22 Comparison**



**Graph 2: Percentage of Inspections that meet Contractual Standards (Detritus) 2021/22 Comparison**



**Graph 3: Percentage of Inspections that meet Contractual Standards (Weeds) 2021/22 Comparison**



3.6. Following a review of the street cleansing performance and the quality of service being delivered the waste services team issued Veolia with a Service Improvement Notice (SIN) in February 2022. This required Veolia to undertake a full review of the street cleansing operation and implement agreed workstreams as part of a joint action plan designed to deliver sustainable improvements in the service.

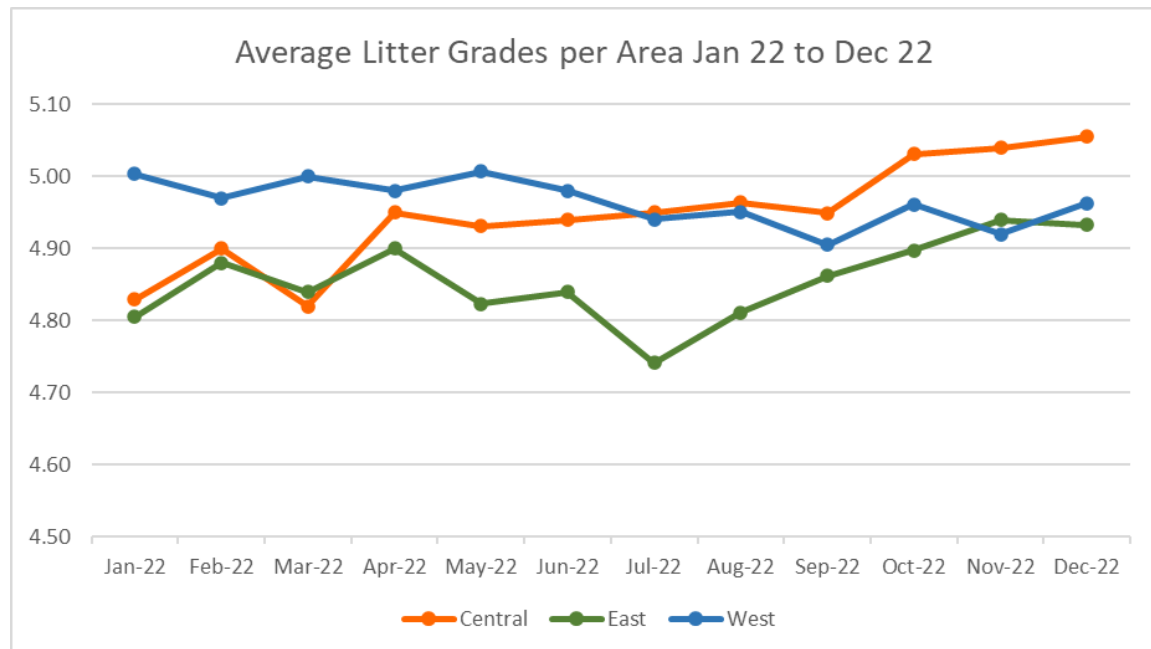
3.7. This included the introduction of an evening economy crew which is deployed in and around our town centres and shopping parades to tackle waste issues associated with our night-time economy. This is waste that otherwise would need to be cleared as part of the core service the following morning before the scheduled sweeping work is undertaken, delaying the morning teams in manual street cleansing operations.

3.8. The above is also supported with targeted enforcement to minimise further deposits of waste outside of agreed collection times. As outlined below in 3.28, further enforcement will be deployed in areas with time-banded collections to improve compliance and minimise fly-tipping.

3.9. The largest single workstream was the rescheduling of the street cleansing teams and re-scheduling of the beats for both the manual street cleansing service alongside the mechanical cleansing with an increased frequency of cleansing in conjunction with increase management and supervision of the crews. This has been successfully introduced in the areas of greatest need and has increased the frequency of street cleansing operations in approximately 50% of residential roads. The revision of service also utilises mechanical footway sweeping vehicles that has proven to improve the outcomes of detritus and weed removal as demonstrated in graphs 2 & 3 above.

3.10. The graph below illustrates the sustainable improvement delivered in the street cleansing service in the East of the borough following the implementation of supporting Action Plan which was agreed by the service and reviewed fortnightly.

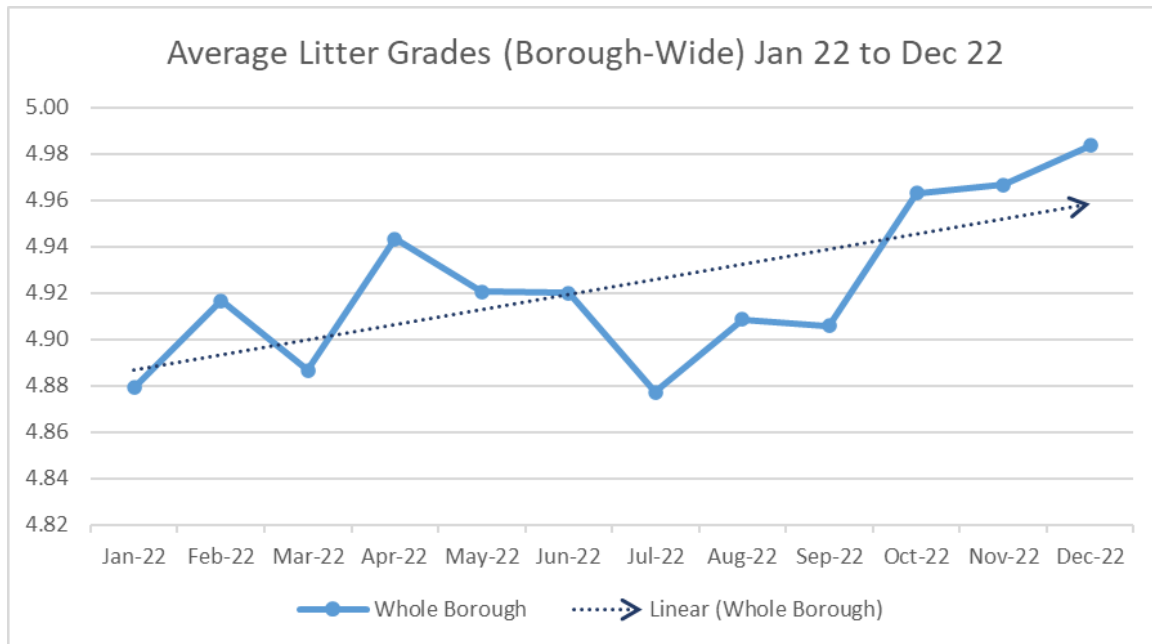
**Graph 4: Average Litter Grades by Area: January to November 2022**



3.11. Overall and across the borough, progress is being made on improving and ensuring the cleanliness of our communities as detailed in the graph below. Importantly,

the improvements since September 2022 have demonstrated that revisions to our cleansing service have delivered better performance.

**Graph 5: Average Litter Grades (Borough-Wide): January to November 2022**

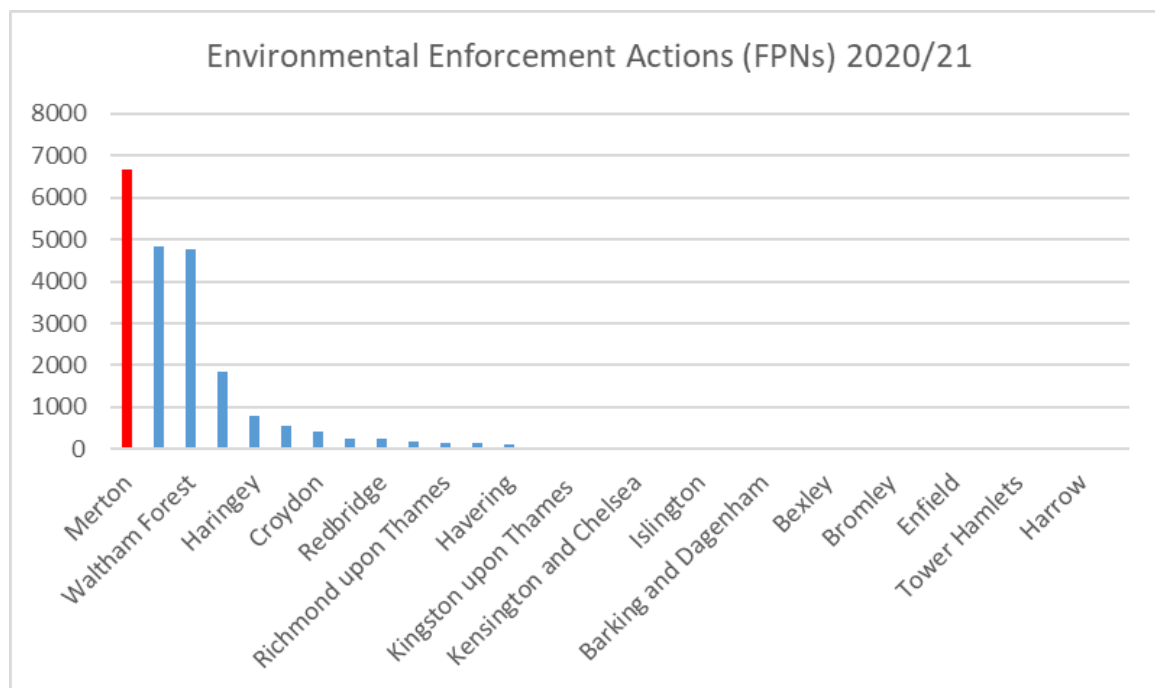


3.12. Fly-tipping continues to be a major area of concern with our service provider clearing in excess of 9,500 fly tips in the first half of the year (2022/23). To address this growing problem, we launched Merton's Wall of Shame and have published our 8<sup>th</sup> monthly edition. To date this has had a positive impact and has led to five (5) successful prosecutions for fly-tipping. Fly-tipping currently costs the Council £850,000 to clean-up and our success in enforcement assists us in mitigating some of these costs.

3.13. This has been supported by the proactive deployment of Environmental Enforcement Officers in key hot spot areas undertaking regular patrols tasked with investigating incidents along with direct education and engagement with local residents and businesses.

3.14. We continue to adopt a zero-tolerance approach to both littering and fly-tipping and have successfully issued 6,678 Fix Penalty Notices supported by a further 1,052 engagement / warning letters. This is the highest-level activity of all London Boroughs and makes up 24% of all direct engagement activities undertaken by London Boroughs.

**Graph 6. Environmental Enforcement Activity London-wide 2020/21**



3.15. In addition to the overall success of the work undertaken by our environmental enforcement officers and service provider, we have improved resident awareness to the issue of fly-tipping through the introduction of our ‘Wall of Shame’ videos that highlight ‘hot spot’ locations and fly-tipping occurrences<sup>1</sup>. The episodes are highly viewed, and we have undertaken successful prosecutions and issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices through information gained from these videos, shared to our enforcement team by the public.



3.16. In October 2022 Cabinet made the decision not to extend the current Waste collection and street cleansing contract with Veolia. In reviewing the recent improvements and service enhancement currently being delivered the Service is assessing the range of activities and service delivery models including in-house services, Local Authority Trading Company, Commissioned / private sector provider and a possible joint-venture (JV) model.

3.17. The completed Options Appraisal will be presented to Sustainable Overview and Scrutiny Panel in February for discussion and a final report taken to Cabinet prior to progressing the preferred option / recommendations in service design and delivery model.

3.18. To inform the design of the new service, we have undertaken an extensive borough-wide consultation on residents’ views on waste & street-cleaning, which ran from early October to mid November 2023 and generated a successful return-rate of around 2,500 responses.

<sup>1</sup> Merton Council Wall of Shame, Episode 8: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zuBMO7wzz9E>

3.19. This comprised a mixed-channel survey – including an online survey (1,900 responses), a paper survey (more than 100 responses) and a telephone survey (more than 400 residents).

3.20. This was supplemented with on-street activity via a series of roadshows in local communities, as well as dedicated focus groups of residents for more in-depth discussion.

3.21. The full report has been submitted for discussion at the Sustainable Communities Panel in February, however early indicators show some emerging trends:

3.22. Satisfaction with waste collection services was high among those we contacted via telephone (75% satisfied), but this dropped significantly in the online survey (19%) and in the paper survey (31%) - the latter channels are more likely to be used by residents who have experienced an issue with services. Satisfaction is also higher in the east of the borough.

3.23. A similar trend occurred in when we asked about satisfaction with street cleanliness – the telephone survey showed 83% of residents agree that streets are clean; however, this drops to 24% in the online survey and 34% in the paper survey. The most common causes of dissatisfaction with street cleaning are full litter bins and on-street fly-tips.

3.24. The full report, plus analysis of the qualitative data and focus groups, will be available in the Cabinet report, and to the Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Panel meeting.

3.25. Looking forward in 2023, the waste service will also be commencing two work streams to provide better benefit to local residents and to improve the cleanliness of our local communities.

3.26. In September 2022 Cabinet welcomed the recommendations from Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel to consider ways of bringing the collection of waste closer to the community in order to support the reduction in the growing increase in fly tipping, while noting that the lack of access to disposal facilities may contribute negatively to the local environment, especially for those that do not drive.

3.27. Officers have worked with the service provider to develop a trial service to provide a series of localised collections that operate in pre-determined areas. The proposed solution will utilise two different types of vehicles, one to collect large bulky items, such as mattresses, textiles, waste electrical & electronic equipment (WEEE) and white goods, while the other vehicle can collect general waste. The service is planning to implement the pilot service in March 2023.

3.28. In addition, the service is currently working on a refined and improved service to commence in Spring of this year across the borough to improve the regularity and reliability of waste and recyclables from properties that are above shop parades.

3.29. The revised service has been designed to deliver an increase in collection frequency to twice-weekly with collections occurring in the evening, outside of normal business hours, with the aim to provide cleaner streets.

## 4 AIR QUALITY

4.1. Air quality in London, as with many cities in the UK and across the world continues to be a major health concern. It is now considered the most significant environmental risk to public health. This has been reiterated by the World Health Organization's (WHO) move to drastically reduce its guidance levels for air quality health exposure. These are set out in appendix A.

4.2. It is known that air pollution has negative impacts on health across the whole of our life course, from the developing foetus, childhood, into adulthood and old age. Its impact is more severe on people already suffering from pre-existing health conditions, such as respiratory and cardiovascular diseases.

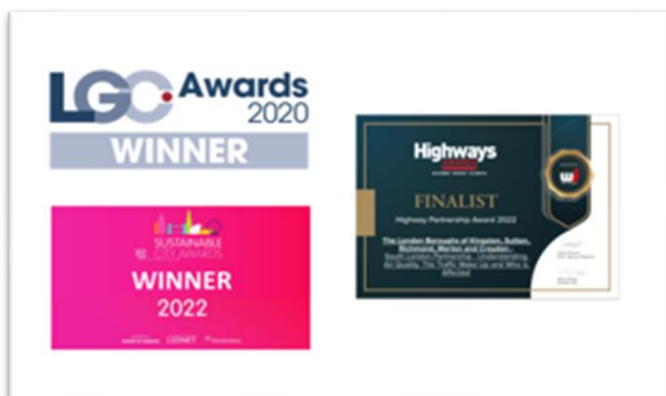
4.3. Research commissioned by the Greater London Authority (GLA) in 2019, estimated the equivalent of 3,600 to 4,100 deaths (or 61,800 to 70,200 life years lost) were attributable to air pollution across London. The urgent need to tackle air pollution was recently highlighted by the death of a nine-year-old girl in South London.

4.4. Merton has been designated as an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA), which means it must take steps to tackle air pollution. This includes producing and delivering an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP). These duties fall under the London Local Air Quality Management (LLAQM), a statutory process in recognition of the legal requirement on Local Authorities to work towards air quality objectives under Part IV of The Environment Act 1995.

4.5. Each year the Council must produce an Annual Status Report (ASR). This is submitted to the governing body for air quality (GLA & Defra) for assessment and approval and is then published on our website. The ASR outlines the air quality monitoring regime in the borough, trends in measured pollution over periods of time and the actions taken by the local authority to tackle air pollution in line with the national objective levels.

4.6. Merton's Air Quality Team forms a part of the Regulatory Services Partnership, sharing services across three London boroughs, including, Wandsworth and Richmond.

- The work of the Air Quality Team is nationally recognised and delivers a number of significant regional air quality initiatives across London.
- The Team has attracted and continues to win awards for their innovative and ground-breaking work. In 2020 the Team won the LGO National Award for Environmental Team of the year. In 2021 the Team won The Sustainable Cities Award for Changemakers of the Year, and in 2022 the Team were a finalist in the National Highways Award for their innovative work on traffic and air quality monitoring as part of the South London Partnership InnOvaTe (Internet of Things) Project.



- As well as providing business as usual statutory functions of the Regulatory Services Partnership, the team deliver a number of grant funded initiatives, aimed

at innovation in tackling air pollution, some of which are beyond the borough's boundaries.

**4.7. NRMM Cleaner Construction:** this project is funded by the Mayor of London and London boroughs and is currently delivering the world's first low emission zone for construction (CLEZ). Construction site equipment, also known as Non-Road Mobile Machinery (NRMM) has been unregulated for a number of years. This means that there are no national, local or regional controls to restrict the type of equipment on construction and demolition sites, no matter how dirty the engine is. In 2015 the GLA proposed, as part of its planning conditions, controls for sites to introduce restrictions based upon EU engine category. Between 2016 and 2019 Merton's Air Quality Team piloted a project in south London to work with constructors to deliver the Mayor of London's ambitions.

- This project was so successful it was expanded to cover the whole of London and is redefining construction emissions in the capital. London is now able to claim it has the cleanest construction fleet in the world. This is a national and international beacon project for other cities and countries to follow.
- As well as bringing in significant grant funding, this self-funding project has helped generate green jobs and upskill a new generation of air quality officers to add future resilience to the industry.

NRMM Inspection:



- The emissions saved by this project over London are considerable, with current plans to extend the project to capture non construction site engines, generators used at events, road work equipment and waste site equipment. See table below:

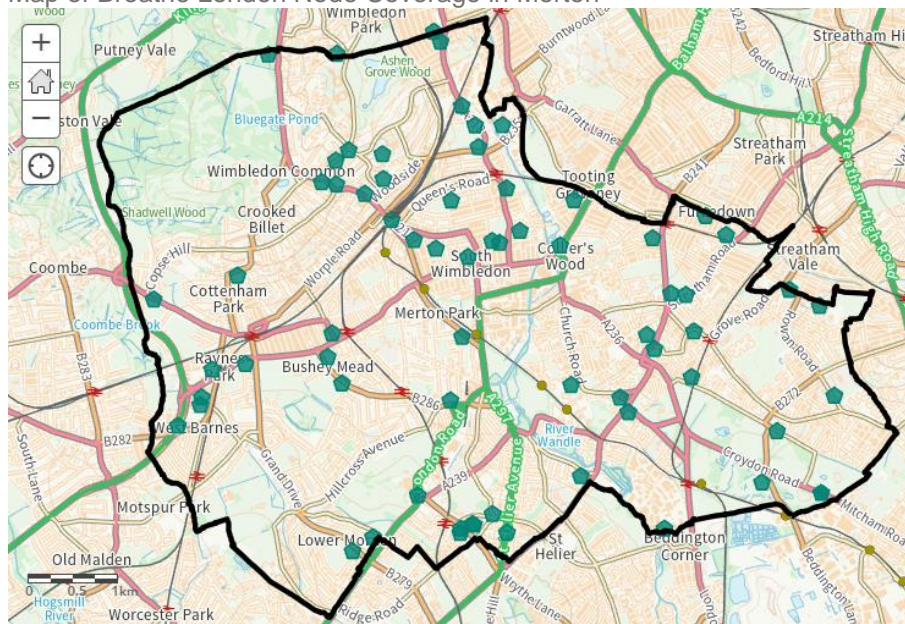
Table 1: Emission Savings Central Values, NRMM Project (April 2016 - March 2022)

Pollutant	Savings (Tonnes)	Reduction as a percentage
Particulates (PM <sub>10</sub> + PM <sub>2.5</sub> )	72	41.66%
Oxides of Nitrogen (NO <sub>x</sub> )	1639	35.55%
Carbon Dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> )	80679	11.50%

4.8. **InnOvaTe (Internet of Things) Project:** throughout 2022 the Air Quality Team received funding through the South London Partnership to look at how information and technology can be used in the borough to improve outcomes for its residents.

- One project delivered by the Air Quality Team included the installation of transport monitoring in the borough capable of counting the most common forms of transport including, vehicles by type, as well as active travel. These were located in key areas in the borough and at the borough boundary.
- Overlaid on top of this transport monitoring was the use of new air quality monitors sourced through Imperial College's Breathe London project.
- The air quality monitoring was located at 68 locations in the borough and included schools, High Streets and Focus Areas.
- We are currently working with world-wide recognised data specialists to consolidate this data in usable form on an interactive dashboard and start to use this information to help shape and influence policy making and assessment in the borough.
- This data will also allow us to shape and assess our new Air Quality Action Plan for 2023.

Map of Breathe London Node Coverage in Merton



4.9. **Weir Road Waste Sites:** as part of another InnOvaTe project, the Air Quality Team is working with three waste transfer sites in Weir Road around monitoring and tackling pollution using new technology.




- The project involves using onsite and off-site monitoring which provides a trigger alert system to the businesses when pollution reaches a certain level. This enables the businesses to identify the causes of pollution and if within their control, take steps to mitigate this.
- Over time the causes and solutions to the site-based pollution become established and their controls become embedded into day-to-day operational processes.



- Through this project we have seen significant reduction in site pollution and taken the opportunity to work in partnership with the boroughs businesses to help them better understand their impact on emissions and take steps to control this.

4.10. **Health Messaging:** Merton's Air Quality Team lead a review of health messaging around air quality in London. The project explored the way in which information on local poor air quality is delivered to those that are the most vulnerable in the community, and how steps can be taken to reduce its impact or the use of pre-emptive medication. This project also included air pollution generated within the home.

4.11. On the back of this work Merton has submitted a bid to Defra's Air Quality Grant Fund to pilot a new project on behalf of 15 London boroughs.

	<b>16</b>	Healthcare providers attended the Merton Council lead workshop
	<b>14</b>	Air quality professionals attended the Merton Council lead workshop
	<b>10</b>	Data specialists attended the Merton Council lead workshop
<b>Healthcare providers included:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global Action Plan</li> <li>• The Greater London Authority</li> <li>• NHS</li> <li>• Urban Health</li> <li>• Public Health England</li> <li>• Kings College London</li> </ul>		
<b>Air quality professionals included:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Southwark Council</li> <li>• Newham Council</li> <li>• Brent Council</li> <li>• Islington Council</li> <li>• Merton Council</li> <li>• Camden Council</li> <li>• The Greater London Authority</li> <li>• Marston Holdings</li> <li>• Vortex</li> <li>• Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea</li> </ul>		
<b>Data specialists included:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CERC</li> <li>• Ricardo</li> <li>• Imperial College London</li> <li>• Met Office</li> <li>• TRL</li> <li>• Enviro Technology Service</li> </ul>		

4.12. The Air Quality Team is delivering a number of local initiatives and projects aimed at understanding and tackling pollution at a local level.

- Citizen Science Projects: Citizen science projects supported and AQ officers provide training and resources including funding additional diffusion tubes and handheld monitors. Collaborative working continues between the Council and Sustainable Merton.
- School Air Quality Audits: Air quality is monitored at several schools that are near areas of poor air quality or



main roads, these schools are also offered an AQ Audit. This audit includes all aspects of air quality and climate change, including travel, heating, green planting and anti-idling. Audit recommendations include emission and exposure reduction measures and mitigation where necessary. Breathe London & Vivacity monitors have also been installed in Schools Streets within the borough to monitor travel and air quality.

- Anti-idling: Anti-idling signage review completed, resulting in the installation of an additional 44 signs. Idling events are delivered by AQ Officers monthly at key locations such as level crossings where typically around 300 drivers are engaged over a 2-hour period. A total of 9 events were delivered in 2022.
- Behavioural Insights Project: Funding awarded from the Local Government Association: Behavioural Insights programme with additional funding from the Council's Public Health Team. LED sign installed at West Barnes Lane Level Crossing to encourage drivers to switch off their engines while waiting at the barrier. The intervention was assessed for efficacy before and after installation.
- Clean Air Villages: A project spanning multiple London Boroughs with the aim to improve air quality in different London 'villages', where both air pollution and population density levels are high. Funding awarded by Defra and in-kind match funding by the Council.
- Clean Air Villages 4 (CAV4): Active dates May 2021 – June 2022. Building on the business engagement exercise during CAV3 in 2020/21 a cargo bike courier service was procured for delivery of a free 120-hour trial for businesses in Wimbledon.



- Air Quality News newsletter – The AQ Team produce a quarterly newsletter on actions and campaigns across the three borough partners. The newsletter is shared internally and externally with interested parties such as the GLA.
- Campaign Days – Public facing events with AQ stall to provide information and freebies to residents for Clean Air Day 16th/18th June 2022, Car Free Day 22nd/23rd September 2022, and Cost of Living event 26th November 2022.

4.13. **Air Quality in Merton:** In August 2022 Merton published its 2021 Annual Status Report (ASR). This report provides a detailed overview of monitored air pollution in the Borough during 2021. It has been produced to meet the requirements of the London Local Air Quality Management (LLAQM) statutory process.



- As well as the results of air quality monitoring in the borough, this report provides an update on the Council's AQAP and outlines the steps that are being taken throughout the many council departments to tackle air pollution.
- Although the borough's air is improving, there are still exceedances of the current UK national objectives for NO<sub>2</sub>. If we consider the application of the new WHO guidance then the whole of London, even within our parks and green spaces would likely be non-compliant, this highlights the scale of the problem of air pollution in London.
- The data in **appendix 1** shows annual trend in NO<sub>2</sub> measured at our diffusion tube monitoring locations; this shows exceedances of the UK emission objectives. The trend in this pollutant has been steadily reducing for a number of years. 2020 during lockdown did show a specific slight dip during this year.
- Sources of air pollution in the borough are estimated by the London Atmospheric Emission Inventory (LAEI) which is produced by Transport for London and the Greater London Authority with input from project partners at Imperial College London, Aether, Ricardo, Heathrow Airport and the Port of London Authority.
- The data from the LAEI is publicly available on the London Data Store and is used as an evidence base for air quality policy work and helps inform key focus areas in our Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP). Source apportionment graphs for key pollutants NO<sub>x</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> are provided in **appendix 2** to this document. For all pollutants road transport is the largest contributor.

4.14. **New Air Quality Action Plan 2023:** The Council is committed to renew its Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) in 2023 to ensure the plan is fit for the next five years. It will be the opportunity for the Council to focus on the boroughs priorities to deliver cleaner air. The plan will be delivered through a full public consultation that will likely run in the summer of 2023. The plan will bring together a number of key partners to help shape the action plan and put measures in place to ensure it is delivered.

- This consultation will include stakeholders and community groups in the borough, with an opportunity to learn from the good work delivered elsewhere in the UK.
- The responsibility for delivering cleaner air sits at every tier of government. National government determine the regulator and statutory framework including taxation and financial incentivisation. Regional government, in the case of London sits with the GLA who have responsibilities for transport, regional planning, air quality coordination and initiatives such as the ULEZ.
- Merton Council has a responsibility to monitor and report on air quality and have an action plan aimed at the steps that the Council can take to reduce pollution and protect communities at a local level.

**4.15. Air Quality Policy Links:** Any new Air Quality Action Plan must link into and harness the co-benefits of a number of key strategic policy ambitions.

- There are clear joint benefits that sit across a number of priority themes that that the Plan will need to support, these include clean & active travel, climate change, public health and the local environment.
- We now see that Climate Change and Air Quality are closely aligned sharing similar ambitions albeit aimed at different types of pollutants. Actions to move towards active sustainable travel, cleaner heating sources and thermal insulation all have a direct impact on reducing local toxic pollution as well as CO<sub>2</sub>.
- As a consequence of climate change, an increase in air pollutants (including CO<sub>2</sub>, black carbon particulates and methane) severely impact both public health and the earth's climate and ecosystems globally. Emissions of greenhouse gases contribute to climate change and ozone-depleting substances create larger holes in the ozone layer.
- This type of pollution also increases the acidity of rain, which causes damage to buildings, land, fresh water and sea water, wildlife and plants. Air pollution is created from a multitude of sources including burning fossil fuels for power generation, manufacturing processes, ICE diesel / petrol vehicles and air travel.

## **5 ENSURING AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE BOROUGH**

5.1. Merton's Climate Strategy and Action Plan was adopted in 2020 as Merton's response to our declaration of a climate emergency, which set net zero carbon targets of 2050 for the borough and 2030 for the Council.

5.2. This 30-year plan sets out our vision for Merton in 2050 and the key actions required to get to net-zero carbon across four thematic areas (the Green Economy, Buildings and Energy, Transport and Greening Merton), as well as how the Council is going to decarbonise its own operations by 2030. Merton's Climate Strategy and Action Plan were formed by extensive engagement and by detailed technical work on identifying carbon emissions in Merton and how we can get to net zero.

5.3. As set out in Merton's Climate Strategy and Action Plan, and in common with many other places, carbon emissions are everyone's responsibility. Of the borough-wide carbon emissions approximately:

- 46% of carbon emissions in Merton are from the electricity and gas used to power resident's homes.
- 34% of carbon emissions are from business premises and other commercial buildings
- 18% of carbon emissions are from transport, primarily road travel
- 2% of carbon emissions are from Council activities

5.4. Each year the Council publishes a Climate Delivery Plan to set out what has happened in the previous 12 months and what is planned for the next 12 months towards reaching net zero. Later this month, at their meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023, Merton's Cabinet will be considering Merton's Climate Delivery Plan - Year 3. This includes the proposed allocation of £2million in climate reserve funding allocated by Cabinet in June

2022 to increase capacity to deliver the Climate Strategy & Action Plan across the Council.

5.5. Officers have been developing a suggested programme of work in order to utilise the climate reserve funding to help decarbonise the Council's own activities over the next few years as set out in table 2 below. These proposals will be presented to Cabinet on 20<sup>th</sup> February to approve funding support for these project streams.

Table 2 - 2022 Climate Funding Allocation Proposal

	<b>Project</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	Green economy lead	Recruiting an additional staff member to lead on the development of a Green Economy in Merton. This new role will enable greater engagement with businesses and Business Improvement Districts to promote low carbon business in Merton, greater support for local circular economy initiatives, as well as supporting the development of green skills and jobs in Merton.
2	Business retrofit support scheme	Developing a business retrofit support scheme to help businesses in Merton decarbonise and save on their energy bills.
3	Climate engagement	Continuing to support and strengthen climate engagement outreach to residents, businesses and community groups by making Merton's Climate Engagement Officer role permanent and securing a climate outreach budget for engagement events and materials.
4	Climate Action Fund	Continuing to support the development and delivery of community-led climate projects by committing funding towards a community climate action fund.
5	Community retrofit loan scheme	Establishing a community retrofit loan scheme for homeowners in Merton who are not eligible for national and regional funding.
6	Council rented properties - Legal Review	Commissioning support to undertake a legal review of the leases for council-owned shops, business and industrial buildings and other non-operational buildings to help inform decarbonisation plans for these buildings. This will also feed into the Council's wider estate review.
7	Council rented properties - EPCs	Commissioning of Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) for all the Council's non-operational buildings, to help inform the Council's decarbonisation plans and wider estate review.
8	Community schools heating and catering	Commissioning a review of the catering equipment and heating systems in Merton's community schools to inform decarbonisation plans, future funding bids and future procurement of new catering and heating equipment for community schools.
9	Supply chain decarbonisation lead	Recruiting an additional staff member to support commissioners and contract managers across the Council in engaging with service providers to understand and reduce the Council's supply chain emissions.
10	Climate training for procurement	Developing and delivering bespoke climate training for key staff involved in contract management and commissioning across the Council. This will build on the general carbon literacy training being rolled out for Council staff in 2023.

11	Carbon in all major Council decisions tool	Developing and implementing a tool for embedding climate change and carbon reduction in all major Council decisions to ensure that decisions are in keeping with Merton's net zero commitments.
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5.6. To move towards net zero, the Council is undertaking a wide range of projects with partners, recognising that the majority (98%) of carbon emissions are outside the Council's direct control. As well as saving carbon, climate actions also have fundamental benefits for other Council priorities and services such as public health, greenspaces, active travel and cost of living. Details of these projects are within Merton's Climate Delivery Plans (years 1 to 3 – see links in Section 13 of this report) and include:

5.7. Working with and supporting Merton's Climate Action Group of volunteers who play a leading role in the development and implementation of community-led projects, events and knowledge exchange that reduce Merton's greenhouse gas emissions, where joint efforts are more effective than the actions of individuals or the Council alone. The Climate Action Group is organised into the same themes as the Climate Strategy and Action Plan: Buildings and Energy, Greening Merton, Green Economy and Transport. Climate Action Group projects include:

- Merton Garden Streets – a volunteer led project, delivered by Sustainable Merton, planting Merton's streets during summer months. With over 90 streets signing up to planting days over successive summers, community feedback highlighted positive impacts for mental and physical wellbeing, developing a greater sense of community, as well as improving local air quality, biodiversity and climate resilience.
- Energy matters – energy and carbon saving advice delivered in schools for children and parents
- The Wheel – a circular economy project bringing together waste reduction, reuse and upcycling projects in the borough under one umbrella brand "The Wheel" to raise awareness and to change consumer behaviour.

5.8. Mitcham Community Orchard, which was created in partnership with Sustainable Merton as part of the Dig Merton initiative, inspired 200 residents and 12 local partners and businesses to help transform a derelict area of spare land into an award-winning community orchard with 30 different varieties of fruit trees, seven (7) raised beds, ponds, a soft fruit collection and a wildflower meadow. The site has received the following acknowledgements: London in Bloom, Merton in Bloom, the national LGC award for community gardens, and a Team London Award.

- The site's development continues, and it has been used for numerous barbecues and parties by local residents and groups. The orchard is a community and educational resource to be enjoyed by everyone and with the help of local volunteers, it continues to grow strong.



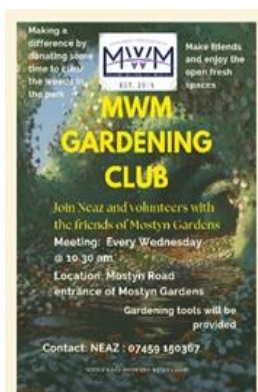
5.9. Creating more comfortable homes and businesses, saving carbon and reducing energy bills:

- Supporting Housing Associations in applying for government funding to retrofit the homes they own, also saving on energy costs for residents.
- Helping Merton's low-income households to access available government support to retrofit their own homes. This includes working with the GLA to provide funding to a local organisation, Thinking Works, who support Merton residents in the (sometimes complex) application process for government funding to retrofit their homes. Council officers, Thinking Works and representatives from the GLA have all attended Merton's Cost of Living Events to ensure residents can find out more about the retrofit schemes face-to-face, as well as accessing the support by email or telephone.
- Merton's Climate Action Group (buildings and energy) providing good practice case studies to inspire other residents to retrofit their homes.
- Recruiting two Community Retrofit Officers to provide additional support, including working with UK Power Networks (UKPN) and other power providers to produce an energy masterplan for Merton to ensure the power supply can support decarbonised building energy and electric vehicles.
- Over the next 12 months we will develop a project to help businesses reduce their carbon emissions from energy.
- Driving low carbon development through ambitious climate change policies in Merton's Draft Local Plan.

5.10. The Greenspaces Team continues to work with its network of Friends of Parks and local interest groups to improve the Environmental Sustainability and Greening Merton agendas in the borough's parks and open spaces.

- Adoption of the Merton "Wildways" initiative as we look to relax the current intensive management of our highways verges. This is linked to our ambition to use less carbon, become more sustainable and improve local greenspaces and enhance biodiversity. Currently 11% of Merton's highways verges are managed as Wildways [WildWays: boosting biodiversity on grass verges | Merton Council](#).
- Adoption of the Merton "Pollinator Park" initiative as look to enhance the biodiversity in our parks and open spaces through the machine planting of bulbs and wildflowers in Merton greenspaces to provide nectar sources for bees and butterflies while providing visual interest and colour to our parks and open spaces. In 2022 over 250,000 machine bulbs and 20,000 square meters of wildflower meadow were planted in Merton's parks and open spaces.
- Working with service providers (IdverdeUK), partner organisation (RSPB) and Friends of Parks to provide targeted management and maintenance plans for Merton's Parks and nature reserves through the adoption of Green Flag Award [Green Flag Award](#) the international mark of quality. In 2022 the borough will be submitting three (3) new Green Flag Awards writing plans with Friends of Parks Groups.
- Continue to provide opportunities for community and corporate volunteering in our parks and open spaces and record the added value that Friends of Parks groups bring to the borough through recording and putting a monetary value

against this input. In 2022 we have 25 regular Friends of Parks groups volunteering in Merton Parks and generating over 5000 hours of volunteering per year in Merton's Parks



Regular Friends volunteering in Merton parks and open spaces

5.11. The Tree Team continues to plant trees annually as well as investigate and submit applications for external funding to increase sustainable tree planting in the borough's park and streets, recent successful funded initiatives are outlined below.

- **Annual Street Tree Replacement Program:** In 2022-23 the team planted **480** standard trees in highways locations to replace trees lost due to health or insurance issues.
- **Annual Street Tree New Planting Program:** In 2022-23 the team planted **110** standard trees in new highway locations.
- **CIL Funded Tree Planting:** Through a range of Neighbourhood CIL projects and planning agreements the Tree Team will continue to sustainably increase canopy cover in borough greenspaces
- **Urban Tree Challenge:** Between 2021-23 the Council has successfully bid for three (3) rounds of Urban Tree Challenge Funding
  - Round 1: **1200** tree whips in Merton parks including 800 Morden Park and 400 Pollards Hill Park, investment of £1,500
  - Round 2: **194** standard trees across 10 Merton Parks, investment of £61,817.00
  - Round 3: **283** standard trees across 28 Merton Parks, investment of £83,125.00
 The funding secured paid for the supply, planting and maintenance for 3 years to establishment of the above trees. [Urban Tree Challenge Fund](#)
- **Trees for Cities:** In 2023 the Tree Team will embark on its first Trees for Cities Community Woodland Creation Project on Cramner Green which will see the planting of **6000** tree whips, **12** standard trees and **400 square meters** of underplanting of woodland bulbs, investment of £48,000.00 [Trees for Cities](#)
- **Trees for Streets:** In 2023 the Council will join the National Street Tree sponsorship scheme [Trees for Streets](#) offering residents, groups and business to support increasing canopy cover on Merton's Streets.





Urban tree challenge whip planting Morden Park and Pollards Hill Spring 2022

5.12. Merton's Local Plan recognises over 50 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance in the borough. These range from large areas such as the Mitcham and Wimbledon commons to small parcels of land such as Myrna Close Local Nature Reserve in Mitcham. The Council's adopted policies aim to protect and enhance these sites for future generations and also seek opportunities to create new wildlife habitats and thus expand the boroughs biodiversity.

5.13. Merton Greenspaces Team are currently working with Service Providers at Idverde and its partnership with RSPB "Creating Nature Positive Communities" reviewing the current Nature Reserve Management Plan - [see Nature Reserves](#).

## 6 SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

6.1. The Council recognises the importance of sustainable travel in delivering a clean and sustainable borough. Road transport is responsible for 18% of carbon emissions and a significant amount of the air pollutants in Merton. Addressing these issues will require a shift from car journeys to walking, cycling and public transport, alongside a transition to low emissions vehicles for essential car trips.

6.2. The Mayor's Transport Strategy set a target for 73% of all trips in Merton to be made on foot, by cycle or using public transport by 2041 and the Government's decarbonising transport strategy sets out an ambition for half of all journeys in towns and cities to be cycled or walked by 2030. Achieving this increase in active travel will require significant investment in improved walking and cycling infrastructure in the borough.

6.3. Merton's Transport Strategy (LIP3) set out a delivery plan for the installation of cycle routes for the plan period up to 2025. The allocation of TfL LIP funding was severely impacted during the Covid pandemic. In October 2022 TfL allocated funding to Merton for the remainder of 2022/23 and 2023/24 which is reduced by around a third compared to pre covid levels.

6.4. TfL funded schemes that are proposed for implementation in 2022/23 and 2023/24 include:

- A permanent segregated cycle scheme on Merton High Street
- Continuation of improvements to the Wandle trail
- Pedestrian crossing and junction improvements at a number of locations
- A major healthy Streets scheme on Streatham Road to Mitcham Town Centre comprising improvements for cyclist, pedestrians and bus priority.
- Commonside West Shared Cycle Path and improvements to the junction with Madeira Road to provide a toucan crossing phase.
- Improvements to the Morden Road and Dorset Road Junction

- Provision of a Toucan Crossing on Bushey Road
- Secure residential and school cycle parking.

6.5. A number of additional schemes were also delivered during the pandemic through emergency Covid streetscape funding including five (5) new Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs), 28 school streets and segregated cycle lanes on Haydon's Road bridge and Church Road. Cycling improvements were also made to Plough Lane with funding contributions from the stadium development and on Bishopsford Road, London Road and Mitcham Bridge as part of the emergency replacement of Mitcham Bridge.

6.6. Whilst there have been a number of improvements in recent years it is recognised that pedestrian and cycle infrastructure in Merton is not of adequate standard in many areas and there is further work to do to create a coherent, safe and comprehensive cycle and walking network.

6.7. To inform the long-term development of Merton's cycle and walking infrastructure, the Council proposes to develop a detailed cycling and walking strategies for publication in 2023. The strategies will identify gaps in the network and develop detailed feasibility options for schemes. This will involve an updated assessment of existing routes in accordance with latest design standard and identify where improvements are needed. Potential schemes will be costed and prioritised to better enable the Council to make future bids for available funding from TfL or Government or to seek funding contributions from developers.

### **Dockless e-bike hire schemes**

6.8. Dockless electric bike hire is a service in which bikes can be located, hired and unlocked using a smartphone app. Dockless e-bike hire schemes are not subject to any legal framework, and are therefore able to operate without agreement from the Council. The schemes have become increasingly widespread and popular across London, including in Merton over the last year.

6.9. The schemes provide a sustainable travel option for some residents, particularly in areas of the borough that lack public transport options or where residents do not have space to store their own bicycles. However, the schemes are currently operating on a free-floating parking model which has resulted in some issues with pavement parking creating obstructions for pedestrians. To mitigate this the Council is seeking to engage with operators to enter into formal agreements to ensure schemes meet minimum standards and provide designated parking areas.

6.10. In December 2022 the Council entered into a formal agreement with Human Forest to provide e-bike hire services which will cover all areas of the borough. Human Forest's pricing model offers the first ten minutes of travel per day free and no unlocking fee. Human Forest instead charge a trip ending fee which incentivises good practice parking practice by offering a reduced trip end fee of only 50p for parking in a designated "green bay" (compared to £2 for free floating parking). The Council have worked with Human Forest to identify up to 100 "green bays" that will be geo-fenced for user on their app. In the coming months, more bays will be identified, which may include some bays that are marked on street and converted car parking bays. Human Forest currently have an agreement in place with Kingston and Sutton, so this will enable cross boundary trips in areas to the south of the borough with lower public transport accessibility levels.

6.11. The Council has also proactively engaged with other e-bike hire schemes currently operating in Merton and agreed procedures to manage parking including

parking wardens in busy areas, education for users on safe parking and fines and bans for users not complying with parking rules.

6.12. Council officers also continue to engage regularly with TfL, London Councils and neighbouring boroughs to share best practice and work towards a more consistent London wide approach to dockless e-bike hire schemes.

### **Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure**

6.13. The Council will develop an Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure delivery plan for publication in 2023 that will set out how it will deliver the charging infrastructure necessary to support the projected transition to electric vehicles.

6.14. Preliminary work has begun on the development of the EVCI delivery plan, including continued engagement with Government, TfL and London Councils on strategy and policy and seeking input from Councillors via the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny and Overview Committee EV Task Group.

6.15. In early 2022, the Council made a successful bid to the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) for £750k of funding under the On-street Residential Chargepoint Scheme (ORCS) to provide lamp column charge points. Through the procurement process the Council was able to more than double the amount of charge points proposed to be provided to over 500. This will enable the Council to meet Merton's projected requirements for the amount of slow public charge points needed by 2025.

6.16. Extensive survey work has been conducted to identify suitable lamp columns and a consultation process is ongoing. Installation of the first EVCPs is due to start by the end of January 2023 with full rollout of all chargepoints is expected to take until at least end of March 2023.

6.17. To ensure that EV owners can access the lamp column EVCPs and they are not blocked by other vehicles, the Council will also be commencing work in early 2023 to provide dedicated EV only parking bays adjacent to existing and proposed lamp column EVCPs. Where we seek to create EV only bays in residential CPZ areas, use will only be permitted by resident EV permit holders in that specific CPZ. This is to prevent potential misuse by non-local EV owners parking for free in residential areas near to town centres or stations. Wherever possible, the Council has identified locations for lamp column EVCPs at the end of roads and adjacent to flank walls to minimise impact on other residents in the street. All proposed dedicated EV only bays will be subject to a full statutory consultation process.

6.18. In addition to the above, the Council's new planning policies require developments of new homes to provide electric charging connectivity to 100% of parking spaces for site, so that in the future, EV chargepoints can be installed easily for all parking spaces without major disruption. At least 20% of those on-site car parking spaces must have active EV chargepoints. The Council is also supportive of EV chargepoints being installed in supermarket car parks and is encouraging the petrol stations in the borough to consider installing rapid EV chargepoints in their parking areas.

## **7 ENSURING INCLUSIVE OPEN SPACES**

7.1. Fair and equal access to public open spaces is not just good practice but is governed by law, namely the Equality Act 2010. This legislation aims to prevent

discrimination and place the responsibility with councils and service providers to make reasonable adjustments to provide access for people with disabilities.

7.2. In order to optimise use for people, greenspace must be both accessible and worth visiting. Good accessibility is fundamental although there has, in the past, been a tendency towards an exclusive focus on one or two forms of disability (for example wheelchair users) and the physical aspects of site design (ramps and paths). However, accessibility is also to do with other factors such as distance from home and sociocultural factors - do people want to go there and do they feel safe and comfortable there?

7.3. Social factors are sometimes overlooked but are often very significant in making people with disabilities feel excluded from landscape. [How to make greenspaces more inclusive \(sensorytrust.org.uk\)](https://www.sensorytrust.org.uk)<sup>2</sup>.

7.4. The protection of Merton Parks and Nature Reserves is achieved through:

- Developing robust Park and Reserve Management and Maintenance Plans, using nationally recognised parks quality marks like Green Flag Award.



- Managing secure park perimeters through fencing or bunding. In 2022 the Greenspaces team have carried out a range of projects to secure park perimeters through Greenspace Capital, Ward Allocation Scheme and other external funding.



Woodmanstrane Nature Reserve secured after arson attack Nov 2022 Merton Green Walk sympathetically secured Nov 2022 part of Green Flag Action Plan

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.sensorytrust.org.uk/resources/guidance/inclusive-greenspace>



Soil bunding created at Figges Marsh September 2022



Soil bunding with Wildflower Seeding Wimbledon Park June 2022

7.5. Enhancing the Biodiversity of the boroughs Parks and Open Spaces: Merton’s greenspaces contain an array of habitats and associated species of plants and animals. Regional priority habitats such as the meadowland and veteran trees of Morden Park and Cannon Hill Common, the acid grassland of Mitcham Common, will all continue to be managed so as to maintain and enhance their biodiversity. Funding streams will be explored to undertake restoration works to lakes and seasonal ponds, for example Wimbledon Park and Cannizaro waterbodies. Management plans for wildlife sites will be updated.



Wildflower and Bulb Planting Gap Rd Pocket Park, Reed and Tree Planting Wimbledon Park Lake Safety Project 2022

7.6. The deculverting and river restoration of Wimbledon Park Brook was funded through grant funding in summer 2021, using £204k of Flood Defence Grant-in-Aid from the Environment Agency and Defra. This scheme was identified on the opportunities register carried out as part of the wider Wimbledon Park Lake reservoir safety works (funded and managed by London Borough of Merton with a budget of £1.3 million).

7.7. The scheme included opening up a new section of the brook through Ashen Grove and the public park. The scheme reduced flood risk to five (5) residential

properties and reduced flood risk to the park. This was achieved by the increase in storage for water through the new channel capacity and by adding scrapes to create a two-stage channel.

7.8. The design of the scheme has been carried out to maximise the biodiversity potential of the site. The banks have planted with native marginal and aquatic species and further planting and enhancement will be undertaken by the Friends of Wimbledon Park and local volunteers in spring 2023. As well as habitat creation this also gives an opportunity for education, teaching members of the public about natural flood risk management. The use of aquatic vegetation and reeds will have a positive impact on water quality leaving the park, before flows enter the River Wandle main channel.



Wimbledon Park Brook River Restoration and Deculverting Project, Wimbledon Park 2022

7.9. Managing fly-tipping and litter in 2022: Strategic CIL Projects to clear litter and fly-tipping and design out opportunities for people to commit offences moving forward. Allowing the team to follow-up with enforcement.

Table 3: Strategic CIL Projects to Improve Cleanliness and Enforcement Capabilities

Project Name	Summary	Start-Up Date	Completion Date	Milestones / Commentary
Brangwyn Crescent / Commonside East Improvements	Clearance of existing fly-tipping on Council owned land and installation of 2x fixed CCTV units in each location, to provide greater resilience in monitoring of antisocial behaviour/fly-tipping. Clearance of fly-tipped material will be covered by waste services budgets.	01/04/2022	01/03/2022	<p><b><u>Brangwyn Crescent:</u></b>  <b>Jul 2022</b> – 1x CCTV camera installed.  <b>Sep 2022</b> – 1x CCTV camera removed for repairs following damage due to vandalism.  <b>Jan 2023</b> – replacement camera to be installed to improve enforcement.</p> <p><b><u>Commonside East:</u></b>  <b>Jul 2022</b> – 1x CCTV camera installed.  <b>Aug 2022</b> – Vegetation cutback and waste clearance completed.</p>

Willow Lane Bridge Improvements	Install permanent CCTV, remove fly-tipped waste from Mitcham Common and install fence.	01/04/2022	01/08/2022	<p><b>Feb 2022</b> – Temporary CCTV camera installed.</p> <p><b>May 2022</b> – Short term waste clearance.</p> <p><b>Jul 2022</b> – Full vegetation cutback and waste clearance.</p> <p><b>Aug 2022</b> – New fence installed.</p> <p><b>Sep 2022</b> – CCTV cameras repositioned to provide better enforcement capabilities following waste removal.</p>
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Willow Lane improvements and fly-tipping removal undertaken.



Commonside East before and after pictures.



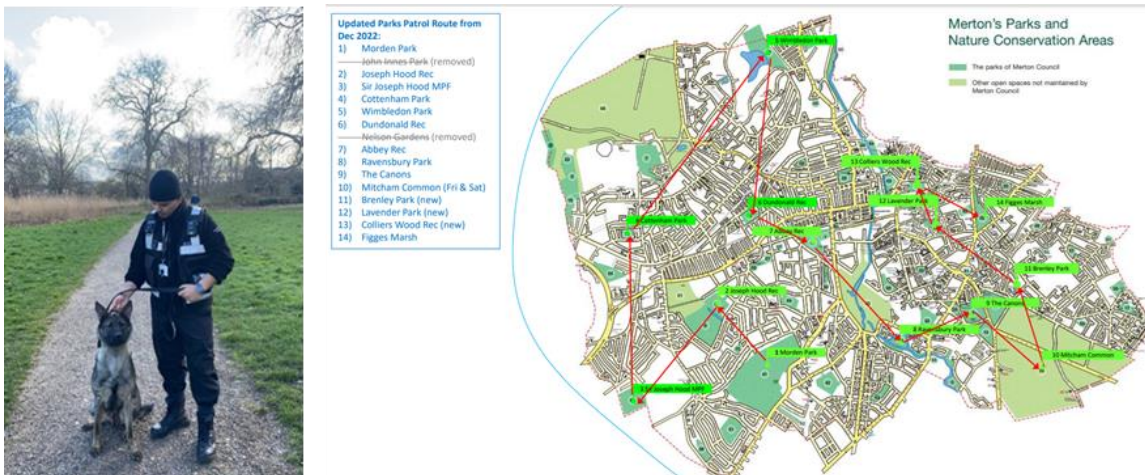
7.10. The Equality Act 2010 aims to prevent discrimination and place the responsibility with councils and service providers to make reasonable adjustments to provide access for people with disabilities.



DDA 1:12 access ramps to all 6no Paddling Pools in Merton Parks June 2022

7.11. Linked to Cleaner and Greener Funding secured in 2022, the Greenspaces Team established a Park Ranger Pilot with current environmental enforcement providers Kingdom. The pilot project took learning from the Metropolitan Police “Ask Angela Campaign” [Ask for Angela | Metropolitan Police](#) to ensure people feel safer when using Merton’s Parks.

- Officers have an established beat route around the borough and sites are added based on intelligence provided by Safer Merton, Service providers at Idverde and Veolia, Friends of Parks groups to target issues of anti-social behaviour, environmental crime.
- The two (2) person team includes trained enforcement officer and trained dog handler. Although the pilot was established with education in mind, teams are able to issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) for littering and dog fouling.



7.12. Safer Merton continues to work to ensure our parks and open spaces are a place where residents can enjoy a safe environment free from anti-social behaviour:

- In October 2022 the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) currently covering five wards in the borough (Cricket Green, Figgess Marsh, Graveney, Lavender Fields and Ravensbury) was extended for a further three years. As per the recommendation approved by Cabinet in September 2022, work is currently underway to consult with partners and the public on views to extend the PSPO borough wide, with the aim of making Merton a responsible drinking borough that does not prohibit the drinking of alcohol in public but reflects a decision to control ASB linked to alcohol consumption.
- In terms of reducing violence, work is underway with the police and partners to have a coordinated approach to weapons sweeps which will involve parks staff and members of the community linked to parks being trained by the police in following the correct procedures to identify weapons and report.
- Safer Merton is working with the National Trust at Morden Hall Park with a view to implementing designing out crime initiatives, including CCTV and links to the Council’s CCTV control room. We are also working with Canons Park in Mitcham and exploring the possibility of linking their CCTV to the control room. In addition, a working group has been established to explore the possibility of a Town Link radio for Morden Town Centre, which could be extended to local park staff in the area.



- Merton Council became White Ribbon accredited in October 2022, demonstrating our commitment to taking a stand against violence inflicted by men against women and girls by encouraging our staff to make the White Ribbon promise. During 2023, we will roll out the campaign to our partner organisations, encouraging their staff to make the promise. This work will include reaching out to our parks staff and contractors such as Idverde and Veolia.
- The 'Ask for Angela' initiative, whereby those who feel threatened or vulnerable can ask for help, will also be explored.

7.13. The Public Space team manage events within our parks and open spaces. We are committed to enabling events within these spaces and recognise that a diverse programme of varied and well-managed events and activities contributes to the promotion of a vibrant cultural community, while also providing a economic boost to the local area. We work throughout the year, proactively and reactively to deliver exciting opportunities for local residents, while also being a attraction regionally. The current larger events that are confirmed to deliver in 2023 are as follows.



- Zippo Circus
- Pub in the Park – food festival and live entertainment
- Bottons Children's Funfair
- Luna Cinema
- Tough Mudder and:
- The Borough Firework shows at Morden and Wimbledon Parks



7.14. Officers from both Leisure and Parks are talking with various event organisers to ensure a varied event programme in 2023. Discussions are ongoing with event providers for further music events, food focussed activities (i.e. a Caribbean food day) and an event at Cannizaro Park focused on mindfulness and sustainability, which will also involve commercial providers for the eco-sector.

7.15. The Mayhem Theatre group are regulars at Cannizaro Park, this year they have been asked to put on a further free show in the Canons in a bid to share cultural events throughout the borough.

7.16. A working group of Councillors and officers will be considering Mitcham Carnival options. The Canons is fully booked with events for the year and our usual community events will be returning, including the very popular Morden Family Fun Day.

7.17. Officers have received an application from the Windrush Generation Legacy Association for an event in Morden Park on 1 July. The application is for 5,000 attendees. Officers from the Windrush Steering Group will make contact to see if we can support in any way.

7.18. Merton Council is the licensing authority under the Licensing Act 2003 and is required to ensure that its functions are carried out and the four licensing objectives are promoted these objectives are:

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- Public safety
- The prevention of public nuisance
- The protection of children from harm

7.19. The Licensing Act 2003 requires certain activities to be licenced. Licensable activities include the provision of alcohol, the exhibition of film and the provision of live or amplified music (dependent on operational times and attendee numbers). When applications are received for events and activities taking place within public spaces liaison takes place with responsible authorities and organisers to ensure that appropriate conditions are applied to any premises licences ensuring the four (4) licensing objectives are met.

7.20. Additionally, the licensing team review and respond to street trading application, reviewing and assessing applications to allow public spaces to be used for markets and other specified activities.

7.21. The service will continue to meet their statutory responsibilities and work alongside agencies for licensable activities in public spaces.

7.22. Currently the partnership working arrangements linking both internal departments and external agencies together relating to events are being reviewed. This will define events and work to promote the spaces that the area available for use. It will ensure that all events in parks, open and public spaces are safe, are appropriate for the location and will aim to reduce the impact on residents and park users. The process will ensure that productive planning meetings are held and a Safety Advisory Group is convened when appropriate.

7.23. We have a fabulous number and range of successful sporting facilities in Merton. [Merton's Playing Pitch Strategy 2019](#) and [Merton's Indoor Sports Study 2020](#) consider the supply, quality, quantity, and future demand the wide range of sports in the borough. In Merton, on average, you are no further than 250m from the nearest park or playing field, which is amongst the top 5 most accessible in London.

7.24. Our partners Idverde facilitate sports bookings for the Council, which sees sport played all over the borough's parks and open spaces

7.25. There are;

149 football teams in Merton (men's, women's, boys, girls and mini soccer) play on 104 grass pitches. Two thirds of the pitches are owned by the Council or on community school or Academy school sites.
39 cricket pitches of which about half are local authority owned; 13 formal cricket clubs are based in Merton, totalling 96 teams.
There are 46 grass rugby pitches in Merton; a third of which are owned by the local authority. 11 community rugby union clubs are based in Merton hosting 84 teams (adults and juniors).
There are 8 pitches suitable for hockey in Merton, of which 7 are of a size and quality suitable for competitive hockey. All pitches are on school sites. Four hockey clubs operate in Merton, supporting 45 hockey teams (adults and juniors)

There are a total of 69 courts at 15 parks tennis venues in the borough.

## 8 ENABLING PEOPLE TO COME TOGETHER AND ENJOY A VARIETY OF NATURAL LIFE

8.1. Merton is lucky to have over 25 active Friends of Parks groups, who support a wide range of activities that not only improve the boroughs parks but also provide vital opportunity for individuals to benefit from the wellbeing created when you are out in nature.



8.2. Walk and Talk Movement: For the past year, 10.30am on a Saturday has been a regular date for hundreds of Merton residents, who head for their local park and join the borough's flourishing Walk and Talk Movement.

8.3. Canons House and Grounds Walk and Talk: From the courtyard of the idyllic Canons House and Grounds ([www.thecanonsmitcham.co.uk](http://www.thecanonsmitcham.co.uk)), with its 500+ year old dovecote and secret walled garden. Plenty of great walks, sights to see and activities to enjoy in the local area.



Canons House & Grounds Walk and Talk

8.4. Wimbledon Park Walk and Talk: Our original and popular Walk and Talk in the famous Wimbledon Park starting from the big Walk and Talk banner near the cafe next to the tennis courts in the park<sup>3</sup>.



Wimbledon Park Walk and Talk

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/wimbledonparkwalkandtalk>

8.5. Colliers Wood and River Wandle: Join us for walks up and down the Wandle Valley every Saturday at 10.30am - from the coffee bike next to Colliers Wood Tube Station<sup>4</sup>.



Colliers Wood Walk and Talk

8.6. The Merton Greenspaces Team and Friends Network have a good working relationship with the South East Rivers Trust. Including SERT training friends' groups to get actively involved in the management of the River Wandle including litter picks and management of invasive vegetation like Pennywort.



8.7. In 2022 The Council's Greenspaces Team established a working relationship with the environmental charity Groundwork London through Idverde UK contract and set up a corporate volunteering program in Merton Parks. Working with Park Friends to establish an annual volunteering plan for key sites with a view to targeting corporate volunteering.

Event 1: Lacoste @ Wimbledon Park Wimbledon Championship plant re-use SCHEME

- Team of 25 staff
- £500 income
- £2500 worth of plants donated and planted
- 500 spent at council cafe



<sup>4</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/collierswoodwalkandtalk>

Event 2: Lacoste @ Cannizaro Park Wimbledon Championship plant re-use scheme

- Team of 25 staff
- £500 income
- £1000 worth of plants donated and planted
- £500 spent at council cafe



Event 3: Price Waterhouse Cooper @ Canons House & Grounds Biodiversity Area

- Team of 10 Staff
- £250 income
- £500 worth of materials donated for bug hotels



8.8. In 2022 the Council’s Greenspaces have been working with Public Health on a number of park-based interventions. The first project “Beat the Street” physical activity intervention with Merton Schools, Beat the Street infrastructure will be installed into eight (8) Merton Parks during Spring 2023.

## 9 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

9.1. The projects will be supported by a combination of Environment, Civic Pride and Climate Change funding streams.

9.2. Current approximate budgets are:

Service Area	Budget (£000’s)
Civic Pride	£2,000
Air Quality	£100
Street Cleansing & Fly-tipping	£3,418
Parks & Open Spaces	£2,122
Climate Change	£3,885

## **10 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

10.1. None for the purposes of this report.

## **11 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**

11.1. The delivery of effective cleansing services and safe and accessible parks and open spaces provides innumerable opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy our public spaces, improving community cohesion and providing vital health and wellbeing activities to our communities.

11.2. As outlined in 7.3 above, we have undertaken recent improvements to our paddling pools across the borough to ensure that they are accessible and useable by a wide array of park users, ensuring better access to our open space activities.

11.3. With specific reference to our environmental enforcement activities, the Council's Overarching Enforcement Policy states 'Regard shall be given to the relevant legislation, codes and policies which protect the rights of the individual and guide enforcement action, (These include the Human Rights Act 1998, Code for Crown Prosecutors, Corporate Customer Services Strategy and the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy).

## **12 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

12.1. None for the purposes of this report.

## **13 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

13.1. None for the purposes of this report.

## **14 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT**

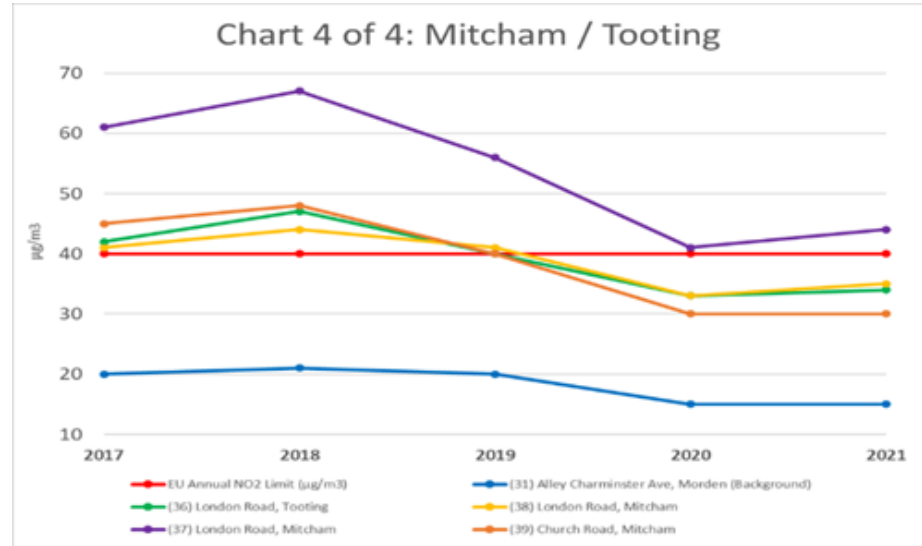
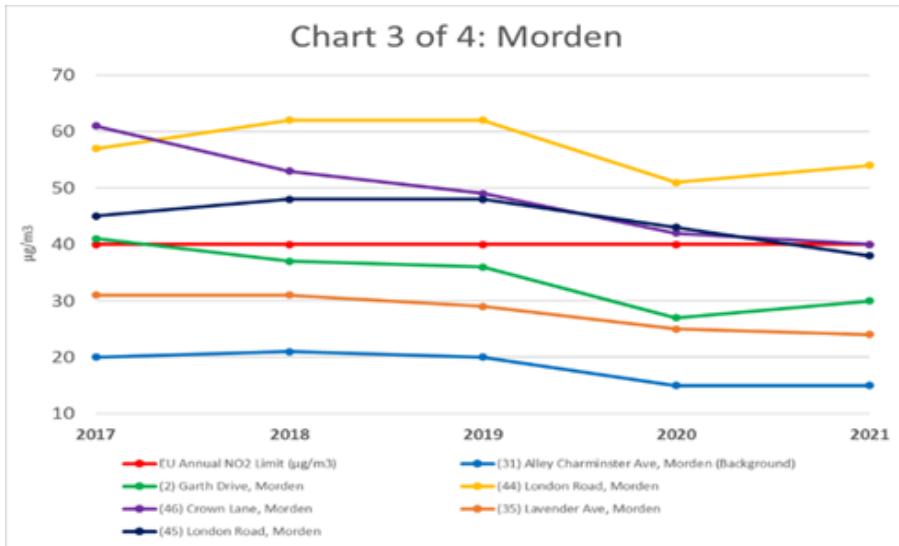
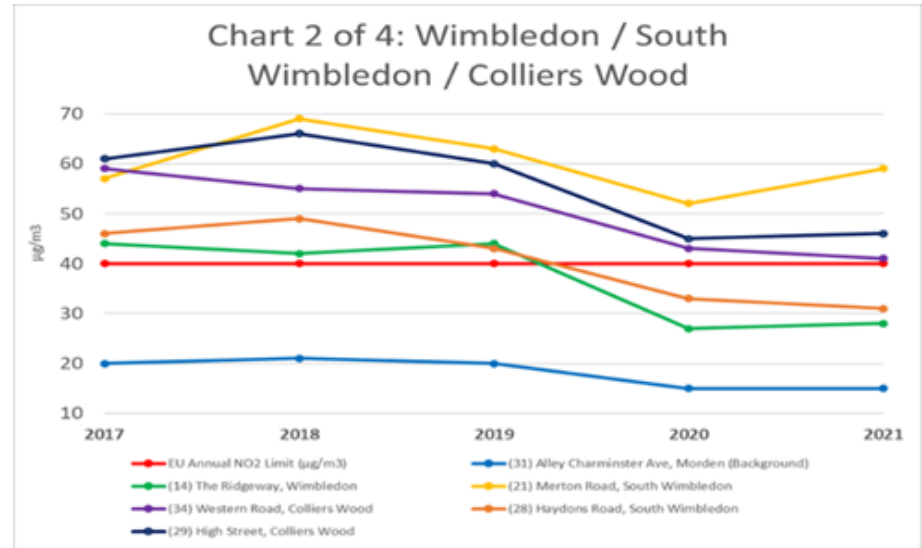
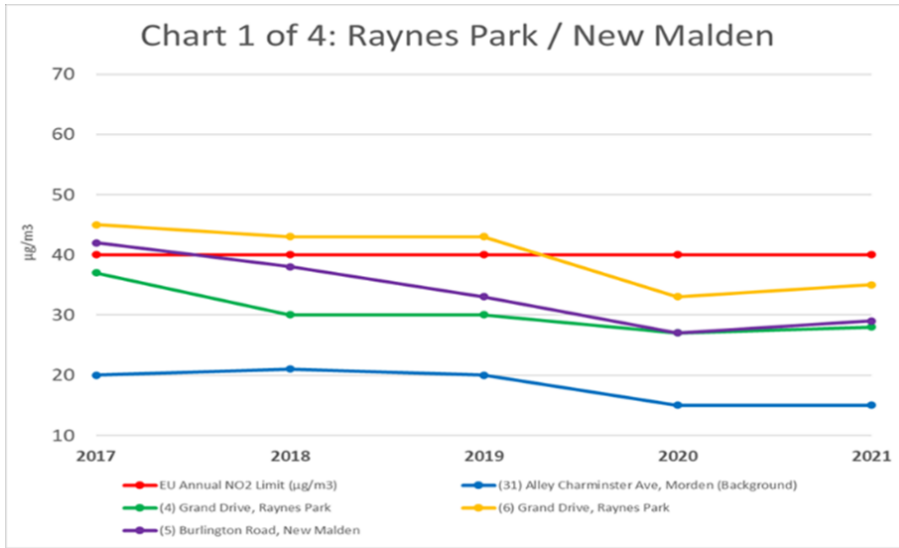
Appendix 1: Annual Trend in NO<sub>2</sub> Measured at our Diffusion Tube Monitoring Locations

Appendix 2: Source Apportionment Graphs for Key Pollutants NO<sub>x</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> (London Atmospheric Emission Inventory (LAEI))

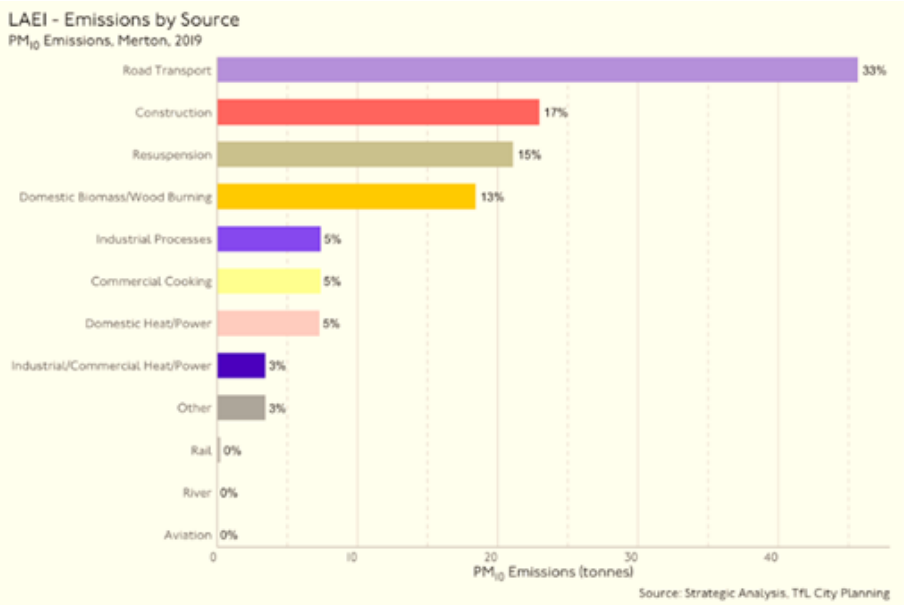
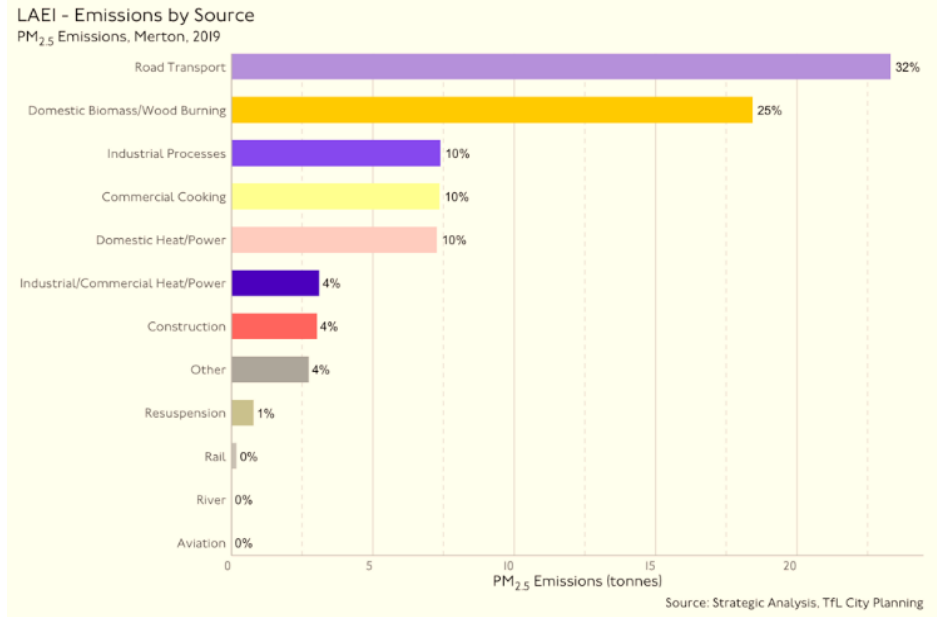
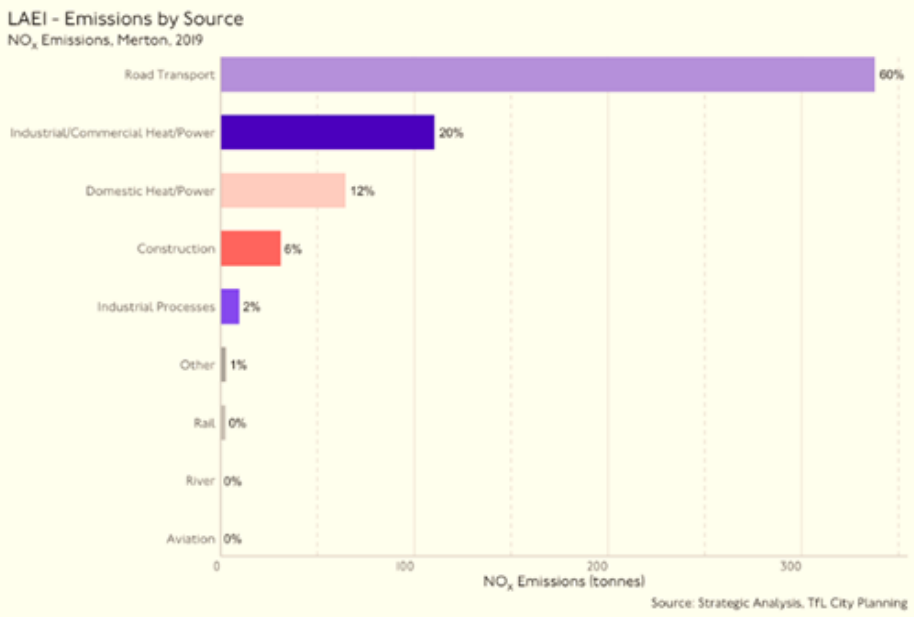
## **15 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

15.1. Merton's Climate Strategy and Action Plan and Merton's Climate Delivery Plan year 1 to 3 - [Climate change : Climate Strategy and Action Plan | Merton Council](#)

# APPENDIX 1: ANNUAL TREND IN NO2 MEASURED AT OUR DIFFUSION TUBE MONITORING LOCATIONS



## APPENDIX 2: SOURCE APPORTIONMENT GRAPHS FOR KEY POLLUTANTS NOX, PM2.5 AND PM10 (LONDON ATMOSPHERIC EMISSION INVENTORY (LAEI))





# Agenda Item 8

WIMBLEDON COMMUNITY FORUM  
30 NOVEMBER 2022

(7.15 pm - 9.00 pm)

PRESENT Councillors Councillor Paul Kohler (in the Chair),

## 1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (Agenda Item 1)

The meeting was held at the Arts Space in Wimbledon Library and chaired by Councillor Paul Kohler. More than 50 residents and five councillors attended with 73 additional views on YouTube. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained how the meeting would work.

## 2 OPEN FORUM (Agenda Item 2)

A resident asked if a place of worship can apply for parking permit.

*Following the meeting Parking Services confirmed that businesses can apply for parking permits. Details of the terms and conditions can be found on [our website](#).*

A residents asked if it was confirmed that delivery bikes on Wimbledon Bridge were being removed from Monday. Cllr Kohler confirmed this was the case and said there is an alternative space in the car park. Cllr Kohler said it would be better for companies like Deliveroo to provide services for riders like huts.

A resident asked if there was any update on the situation with Lime bikes. Cllr Fairclough said Merton Council was in negotiation with Lime but did not expect an agreement to be reached until new year. Residents can report illegally parked bikes [online](#). Cllr Stringer confirmed active discussions. The Council is keen to bring e-bikes to Merton, but the current system is not working, and she encouraged residents to report bikes that were causing problems.

David Hall from Wimbledon Community Association said that the groups [AGM](#) was on Thursday 1 December 2022 at 12noon at the Polka Theatre and residents were welcome to attend.

A resident said that new trees planted outside centre court have been tarmacked up to the trunk. Cllr Kohler said it would be helpful to have an explanation for why trees being tarmacked.

## 3 LONDON ASSEMBLY UPDATE (Agenda Item 3)

1

All minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting of the committee/panel. To find out the date of the next meeting please check the calendar of events at your local library or online at [www.merton.gov.uk/committee](http://www.merton.gov.uk/committee).

Leonie Cooper, Assembly Member for Merton and Wandsworth, gave an update on activities for the Mayor of London and the London Assembly. Leonie reminded residents that there are 25 assembly members, and their role is to hold Mayor of London and GLA services to account.

There are three big issues at the moment: changes at the Metropolitan Police, the culture at London Fire Brigade and the extension of the Ultra-Low Emission Zone.

Following the departure of Cressida Dick, the new Commissioner is Sir Mark Rowley. The Commissioner is meeting with all assembly members tomorrow. The Commissioner needs to address the culture issues that have come to light including abusive messages, the murder of Sarah Everard, and the poor investigation into murders of young gay men in east London. The Met has a lot of work to do to re-establish trust and build a better relationship with large sections of London's community.

The [independent review of culture at London Fire Brigade](#), following suicide of officer, found significant cultural issues including treatment of women, and BME officers. The Fire Commissioner came to Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee on Tuesday and is said they were keen to implement recommendations of report as soon as possible

There had also been discussion at Assembly about a proposal to change the Mayoral Transport strategy to allow for the introduction of smart user charging and the extension of ULEZ to London wide from August 2023. Alongside this will include [scrappage scheme](#), retrofitting, and exemptions for some groups.

A resident asked that if a relatively small number of residents are affected by the ULEZ extension will it have an impact on air quality. Leonie said that when the ULEZ was introduced in central London compliance went from 40% of vehicles to 65%, and for inner London up to 85%. Serious health problems have been reduced in central London, so we now need to address the same problems in Outer London. World Health Organisation guidance from 2012 said diesel fumes are carcinogenic but there was no immediate change to transport policy. Clear evidence for damage from particles produced by diesel cars has increased recently so action has become more urgent. The ULEZ extension will hopefully reduce non-compliant cars further.

A residents asked what percentage of all cars fail to comply. Leonie said she did not know that specific figure for Merton, but half of Londoners do not have cars. If your petrol car is post 2008, or diesel post-2015 then there will be no impact. Other vehicles will be charged £12.50 per day. Residents can use the [vehicle checker](#) to find out if their car is compliant.

A resident said that cleaner vehicle discount is due to end in 2025 and asked if there would be enough charging points for electric. Leonie said that there is a complicated set of [discounts and exemptions](#) with different timetables so residents should check the website for details.

Cllr Jil Hall said she had been involved in equality training for London Fire Brigade 20 years ago so astounded and saddened that these problems still exist. Cllr Hall asked what would be the cost of the infrastructure needed for the extension. Leonie said much of the infrastructure was already there to enforce the Low Emission Zone for HGVs. The capital budget will be separate from revenue and any income from fines will be used for projects to improve air quality like school streets and green walls. Leonie said that sadly the issues with the LFB are a reflection of issues in society with similar attitudes.

A resident asked if there will be improvements to bus services in Merton or surrounding boroughs? Leonie said that most buses have been retrofitted or been replaced with electric hybrid or hydrogen. There are 9000 buses in London so complete replacement will take some time. The Mayor of London had undertaken a review of central London bus routes, and will be making some changes including improvements in Sutton, and some of the buses in central London will move to outer London where there are fewer alternative modes of public transport. We will need to wait to find out what these changes are, and these will be for 2023/24. Residents can raise problems with specific services with [Leonie](#) to present to TfL and Deputy Mayor.

A resident asked about the loss of greenbelt land and the impact of the proposals from the All-England Lawn Tennis Club. Leonie said that she had led on a [report](#) that recommended biodiversity net gain for planning proposals which has been included in the London plan. Mayor of London has also made priority of protecting greenbelt. Leonie said that she was sceptical that the about the AELTC proposal improving biodiversity so was against application, but she would not be involved in making the decision.

A resident asked about bus routes changing need more cross river connections. Leonie said she raises this issue regularly and there is a need to improve connectivity especially for new developments like in Roehampton.

#### 4 CENTRE COURT FUTURE PLANS (Agenda Item 4)

Alex Woolf, from Romulus UK, gave a presentation on the developments of Centre Court shopping centre. The presentation is attached to this report.

Alex said that Romulus is a family-owned business and has been in operation for 50 years. Romulus plans to invest and stay in centre court for the long-term. There is a

large in-house team working at Centre Court. Romulus has similar long-term projects in other parts of London.

Alex said that Centre Court was not the same as it was in 1990 with the anchor tenant leaving along with lots of other retailers. Romulus wants to transform Centre Court to a hub for the community, residents and workers in Wimbledon. This will include new shops, new gyms, and new workspaces, bringing jobs to the area. Centre Court was built as a closed off cul-de-sac designed to face inwards, towards the anchor store. Romulus wants to open it up and connect it to wider community. There will not be any demolition, as Romulus will retain the existing centre but then add value. Alex said they want to create more accessible spaces like a courtyard, and links to Queens Road. This will help celebrate the historic aspects of the neighbourhood.

Romulus has worked with local partners such as Polka theatre, Sustainable Merton, and local artists. They have created a new roof top farm producing mushrooms, using coffee grinds, and honey from new beehives. It is important to be imbedded in the community, and lots of the team are local.

Alex said there will be new shops, a new food and beverage food court on the ground floor; leisure use of space; and flexible workspaces. A new entrance on Queens Road will open the frontage of fire station. They have already taken off the roof over courtyard and have just installed a new sliding roof. The Centre will be able to host events in that space and become a hub for people to linger.

Romulus is focused on keeping current shops as much as possible but will also bring in new retailers. New gym and leisure operators are already secured, and others will be announcing in coming months. They also will have an active market space. The first new tenant will be opening early 2023, Third Space gym and Boulder Climbing will be opening later in 2023. Most other works will be complete by March 2023.

A resident asked if Romulus owned, and managed Centre Court and Alex said they did. A resident asked what the budget for these works is and Alex said this is not a short-term project and Romulus will look to constantly invest of a long period. A resident asked when will centre court look like the pictures in the presentation. Alex said the open spaces will be completed by March, with new tenants joining over the next 8-12 months, so this phase will be completed by March 2024.

A resident asked if Romulus was looking to include smaller or independent traders as well as chains. Alex said that while chains are important, they do want to bring in independents. For many independent stores it is too early for conversations with them as the spaces are not ready to view. This will be a key part of strategy especially in food and beverage.

A resident asked if there will be a meeting space for smaller groups. Alex said this will be considered, and Huddle workspace provider will have flexible workspace and meeting spaces. A resident asked if the Centre will continue to have pop-up kiosks and Alex said they would but they want them at a higher quality than previously and to add value and life to the centre.

A resident asked about the tarmacking of trees outside the centre. Alex said he will need to check with colleagues on the reasons for using the resin bonded gravel but greening the Centre is very important. They will be installing new greening on Queens Road.

A resident asked if this is the only phase of development and Alex said they will be looking to develop further. They will be looking to build on top, but this will be limited by the structure, and it will be sensitive to the surrounding area. Alex will come back to do more engagement with residents once these plans are more developed.

A resident asked if new restaurants and shops will draw in new customers. Alex said Centre Court cannot compete with Westfield so they will need to adapt to meet local needs. The new courtyard space will create a lively heart of the town centre with events, performers and seating. The changes to Queens Road will help as well, creating a mixed-use centre.

## 5 WIMBLEDON PARK (Agenda Item 5)

Christopher Coombe from the Wimbledon Society gave a presentation on the future of Wimbledon Park. The presentation is attached to this report. Christopher said the community was proud of Wimbledon and hosting the tennis.

The proposed development will treble the size of the AELTC complex and double the number of courts. This is on Metropolitan Open land and in a Grade 2\* listed park and in divided ownership. The proposal includes a covered stadium, 38 other tennis courts, industrial and maintenance chambers, player hubs and 9km of roads and paths. There would not be any further entries into championship so it would still be two weeks long plus four days of qualifiers. There have been three separate applications over 18 months.

Christopher said that planning policy should protect Green belt open land plus there was a Covenant installed by Merton in 1993. This said the land should only be used for leisure or recreational purposes or as an open space and that future owners should be restricted from developing the site.

Christopher said that the AELTC claims benefits include a permissive park and walkway around the lake. Permissive means that landowner can close access at any time. Christopher said he was aware of some discussion around a section 106.

A resident said Sally Bolton, CEO of AELTC, would be opening Christmas lights next week in Southfields. A resident asked what access will be like once golf ceases on 1 January, and Christopher said he did not know.

A resident asked what Merton Council's position was on enforcing the Covenant. Cllr Stringer said she was unable to comment on covenant as the Council waiting for outcome of the planning process.

A resident asked if the development can be stopped. Christopher explained there was a planning process involving Planning departments at Merton and Wandsworth; the Mayor of London; and the Secretary of State. The Covenant taken from AELTC, and Merton Council is a more complex route but can potentially be enforced in the courts.

A resident asked if there were alternative plans from the community. Christopher said that a lot of alternative suggestions have been made by local community groups calling for plans to be scaled back.

A resident asked about the destruction of trees and Christopher said that 300 mature trees will be removed with 1500 trees added but these will take 100 years to mature to same level.

A resident asked what practical steps can be made to state objections and Christopher said residents could sign a petition, submit objections, and lobby their Councillors. A resident queried why AELTC needed so much land and another felt that Councillors should not accept gifts from AELTC.

A resident asked if there will be a further planning application for Roehampton site. Christopher said that the Bank of England who own the site, put it up for sale a few years ago but it was not bought by AELTC. A resident said they understood the lease on that site has 14 years left to run with a break in 9 years.

A resident asked about the rules on planning policy and Christopher said rules are often set at national level but enforceable by Merton Council planning.

## 6 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (Agenda Item 6)

Amy Mallet, Climate Engagement Officer for Merton Council, gave a presentation on the progress being made on Merton's Climate Action Plan. The presentation is attached to this report.

In 2019 Merton Council declared a climate emergency with a target of achieving net zero for the Council by 2030 and borough by 2050. The Council is responsible for

less than 2% of emissions. A [Climate Strategy and Action Plan](#) was agreed in 2020 and followed by two climate delivery plans.

The Action Plan covers a lot of areas so there is a need to expand the team and bring in additional expertise. The Council also needs to work well with the community so has set up [Climate Action Group](#) that supports community action on climate in areas like buildings and energy, transport, green economy and greening Merton. Projects have included Energy Matters, providing energy efficiency education in schools; Merton Garden Streets, where residents and businesses have got involved in planting up their streets. So far 115 streets have signed up, with over 10,000 volunteer hours plus participants have reported benefits to their well-being. The [Wheel](#) repair café, a chance for residents to bring goods that can be repaired. There are [repair café and upcycling events](#) taking place at Canon's House in November and December. The Climate Action Group is looking for more volunteers and you can [email the team](#) if you want to get more involved.

There was a summer fare at Canon's House in Mitcham that highlighted sustainable businesses and products. The team is also supporting a schools' network and a Green Careers week to highlight job opportunities in green industries. The best way to keep in touch with that is happening is to sign-up to the [e-newsletter](#).

Mayor of London's [Warmer Homes scheme](#) provides funding for low income, low energy efficiency households. This closes in March 2023 and is the currently only funding scheme available.

The team will be working with University College London to run a pilot programme to support small businesses to improve their energy efficiency.

A resident raised a concern about a previous project involving volunteers to improve an open space that was not supported and failed to continue. Amy was not familiar with the project.

A resident what progress was being made by the Council to reach carbon neutrality. Amy said the Council was at an early stage, £2m funding was committed in 2021 to support the work and this will see an impact soon. More regular and secure funding from central government would be helpful. There will be updates on the council delivery plan for year 3, scheduled to be reported Cabinet in January next year.

A resident asked about the impact of planning policy climate change. Amy said the new Local Plan has been through its public hearings and is now with the inspectors. This plan sets a much higher environmental standard than required by law and most other local authorities.

Cllr Austin asked if Merton Council had responded to the government Net Zero Review. Amy said the Council did respond and highlighted the frustrations with the funding landscape. Amy offered to share the response with councillors.

A resident said that new buildings should be made to have triple glazing as a planning requirement and asked about improving insulation on brick houses that open-up onto the public highway. Amy said she would pass these concerns onto planning colleagues.

## 7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING (Agenda Item 7)

Cllr Kohler thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

### **Date of next meeting:**

7.15pm Wednesday 22 March 2023 at Mansel Road Centre





CENTRE  
COURT.

**Overview for the Wimbledon Community Forum**

November 2022

**PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL**



Page 02

fletcher + priest architects  
london + köln + riga

# Introducing Romulus

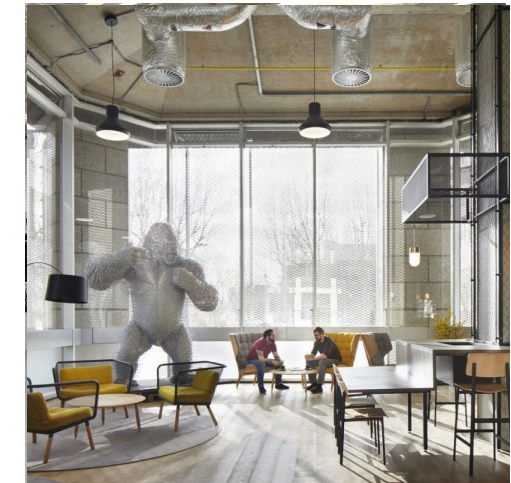
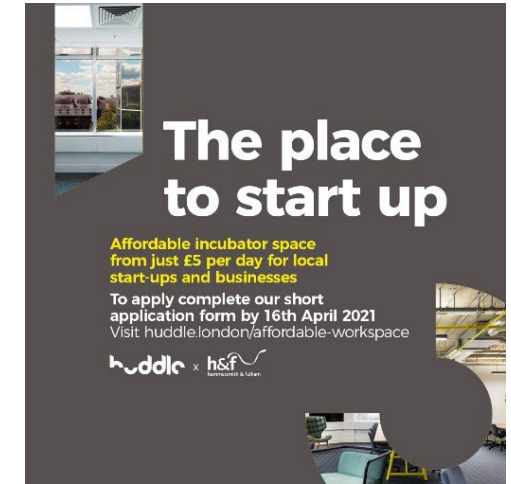
**We are a locally based owner with over 50 years experience and track record as developer, contractor and manager of mixed residential and commercial estates, operating and investing in local neighbourhoods and communities.**

Our extensive in-house expertise also with a dedicated team of over 50 professionals are responsible for directly managing our retail, coworking and mixed office and residential buildings, construction, property and facilities management.

We focus on local neighbourhoods where we partner closely with local authorities, businesses, housing associations and residents to deliver long-term and sustainable improvements. We also strongly believe in the retention of and improvement of the good sustainable existing buildings, which allows us to also maintain and keep open local businesses, deliver new jobs and reduce environmental impact.

## Case studies

- We recently repositioned 3 Shortlands in Hammersmith, delivering new amenities including coworking, cycle provision, event spaces and cafe while retaining and keeping open and 100% leased the existing office building.
- We delivered a large office HQ building for a global gaming technology firm on the Kings Road London.
- We are currently repositioning and on site extending the building at the very heart of the Fulham Broadway, the Fulham Centre, to retain and extend the offices and to deliver offices, local shops and workspaces.



# Vision for Centre Court



A new hub for all of Wimbledon with shops, workspaces, gyms, restaurants, cafes and more.



New and more varied jobs reinforcing Wimbledon's economy.



New open public streets and spaces linking with the Broadway and Queen's Road.



Sustainable re-use and upgrading of existing buildings rather than demolition.



High quality design, adaptable to changes in how Centre Court can be used.



Celebrating historic assets such as the former town hall and fire station.



Return activity to Queen's Road by opening up the ground floor and offering outdoor seating.



# What we've done so far

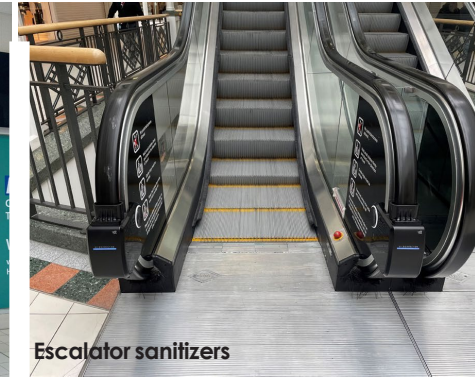
In addition to our broader plans we have been working to make quick improvements as we emerge from the pandemic. These include:

- Onsite beehives and mushroom farm
- Umbrella art installation
- New automatic sanitizers on the escalator handrails
- A Covid testing centre and vaccination centre
- Pop-up bar and food market at new Queen's Road market
- Outside food and drinks on Queen's Road
- Supporting the Polka Theatre with space in the Centre
- A range of events, live music and stand-up comedy
- A range of local pop-up shops
- Art exhibition with Sustainable Merton to promote children's stories of recycling

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NHS Testing Centre



Escalator sanitizers



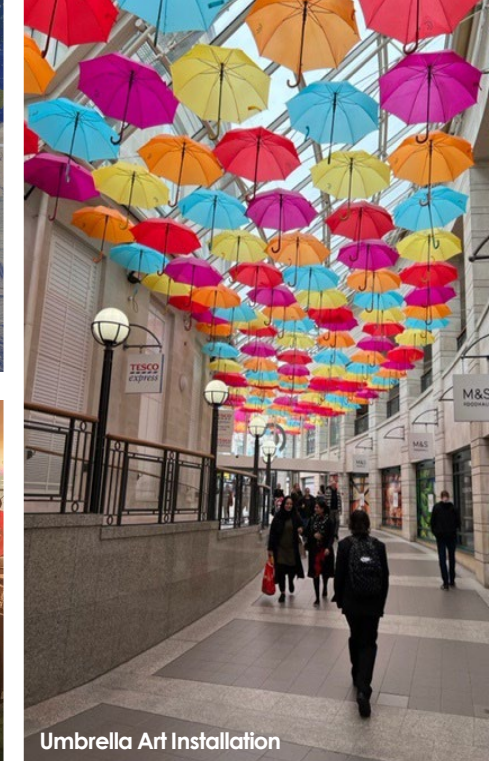
Polka Theatre



Art Collective sponsored event



Sustainable Merton children's art



Umbrella Art Installation



Rooftop Bees



Tennis Screen



Mushroom Farm



Queen's Road Market



Queen's Road Market salsa event

# Wimbledon Rooftop Farm

Page 8



# Centre Court Community Outreach

## Sustainable Merton

Volunteer programme for Centre Court team at the Community Fridge

## South London Careers Hub

Meeting with a local school once per term to advise their in-house careers advisor on employment routes.

## Go Inspire

A female charitable group – hosting in-centre events and collaborating on monthly wellness events.

## AFC Wimbledon

Monthly business club support – bringing together local SMEs.

## AFC Wimbledon Foundation

Fundraising events, next is the Christmas collection on 17<sup>th</sup> December.

## Queens Court Care Home

Partnering on events for the residents and helping to raise awareness of dementia sufferers in public spaces.

## Wimbledon Guild

Volunteer speaker at events and event sponsorship for Christmas.

## Merton Mencap

Assisting delivery of their Christmas Card fundraising.

## Dons Local Action Group

Facilitating spaces for raising awareness of the charity.

## Headstart/South Thames College

Programme to increase youth communication skills, includes opportunities in the Centre.



**A dynamic  
neighbourhood  
pub in the heart  
of Wimbledon  
town centre.**



A new  
**Centre Court**



# A new Centre in Wimbledon

Page 01



## Shops for the future

**Lively shops serving the community.** Selling the freshest produce and objects created in the studios and workshops. All available to buy, collect or be delivered seamlessly.



## Exceptional food & drink

A new courtyard at the heart of Centre Court and a lively Queens Road with a **bustling market hall, barista cafes, a lively rooftop bar and restaurants** serving food grown on the rooftop urban farm.



## Keep fit and healthy

A new **lifestyle gym with great classes, a swimming pool and everything you want to keep fit.** Catering to young professionals who live and work locally and their growing families.



## Workspaces your way

A diverse range of workspaces with **collaborative coworking, creative studios and bespoke offices** for start-ups, scale-ups and larger companies. Work in your local neighbourhood.



A community entrance facing local residents on Queens Road

New entrance, landscaping and  
restaurants on Queens Road





THIRD SPACE

CAFE

FOODHALL FOODHALL

New focal courtyard at Ground Floor at the heart of the Centre

The new courtyard  
at the Upper Mall level



Page 05

# A strong and growing set of uses

## SHOPS



## FOOD & BEVERAGE



New food hall,  
cafes & restaurants



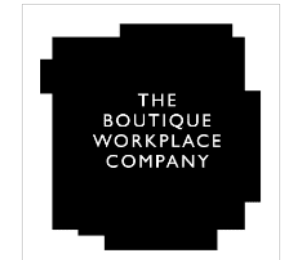
## MEDICAL/HEALTH



## LEISURE



## WORKSPACE



A strong convenience-led line-up. We are in discussions for expansion with M&S and are marketing for a further supermarket/food-hall

Café's, bars, restaurants and more. We're in negotiations with a number of exciting operators and have opened a rooftop farm

A growing range of uses offering health and wellbeing products and services to the affluent local catchment

We have already completed deals with a strong leisure line-up including a 45,000 sqft ThirdSpace health club

A lively range workspaces including our brand huddle with coworking, meeting rooms, event space, private offices and much more!



A diverse mix of complementary uses across three floors

Project update  
on the Centre  
Court works



A new  
**Centre Court**



# Project update

---

## KEY DATES:

- Sep 22 Sliding roof onsite and assembled [COMPLETE]
- Oct 22 Handover to the Golf Groove [COMPLETE]
- Nov 22 Estimated completion of sliding roof works [COMPLETE]
- Jan 23 Handover to Third Space
- Jan 23 Handover to Boardroom
- Mar 23 Estimated completion of Courtyard & new entrance



Thank you!





**Save Wimbledon Park**

**Online 1-2pm 2nd November 2022**

**Help Protect the Environment**  
**Hold Merton and the AELTC to their promises**

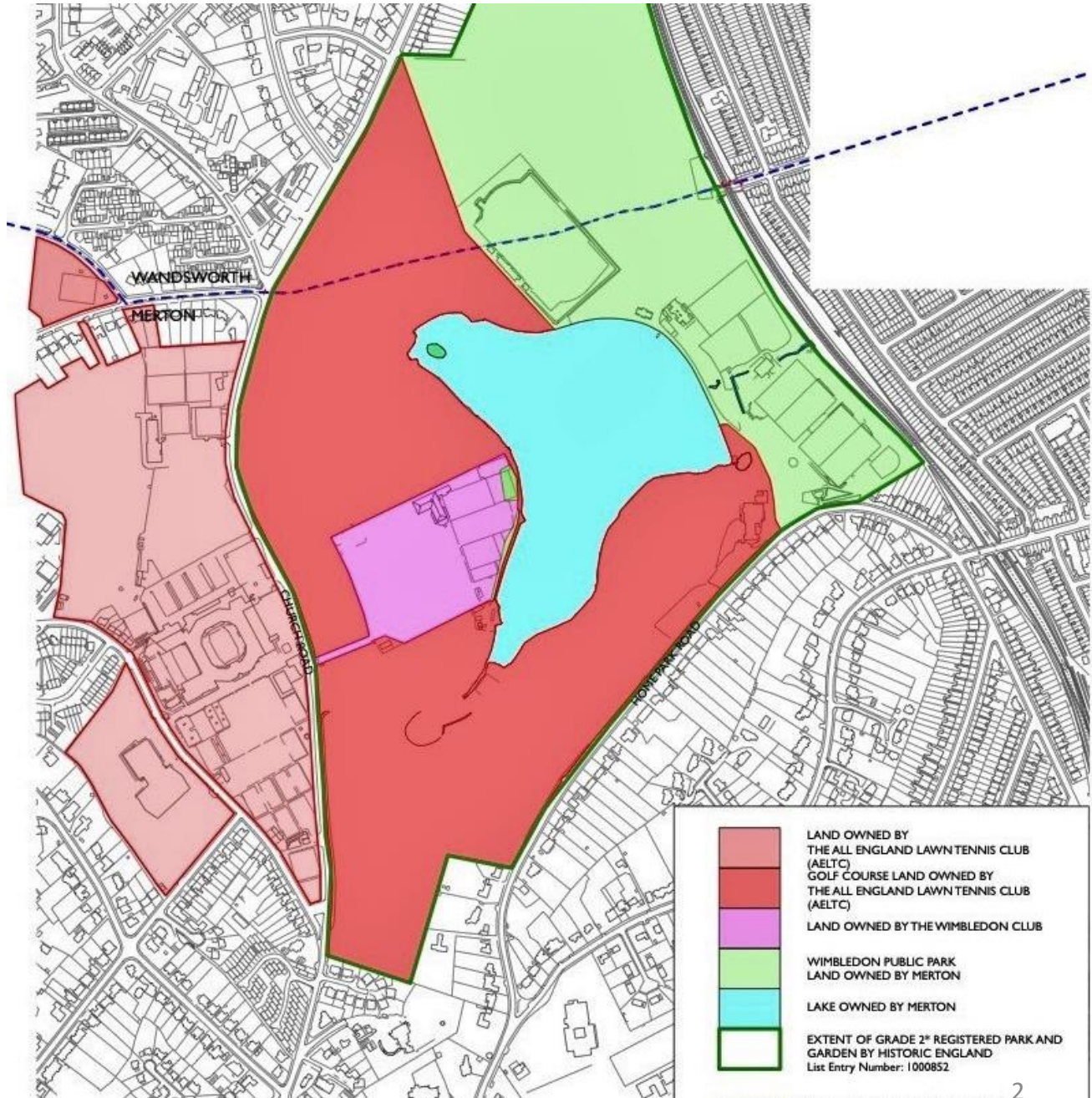
**Save Wimbledon Park for Future Generations**

# Christopher Coombe: The Wimbledon Society



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# Where and how big is it?



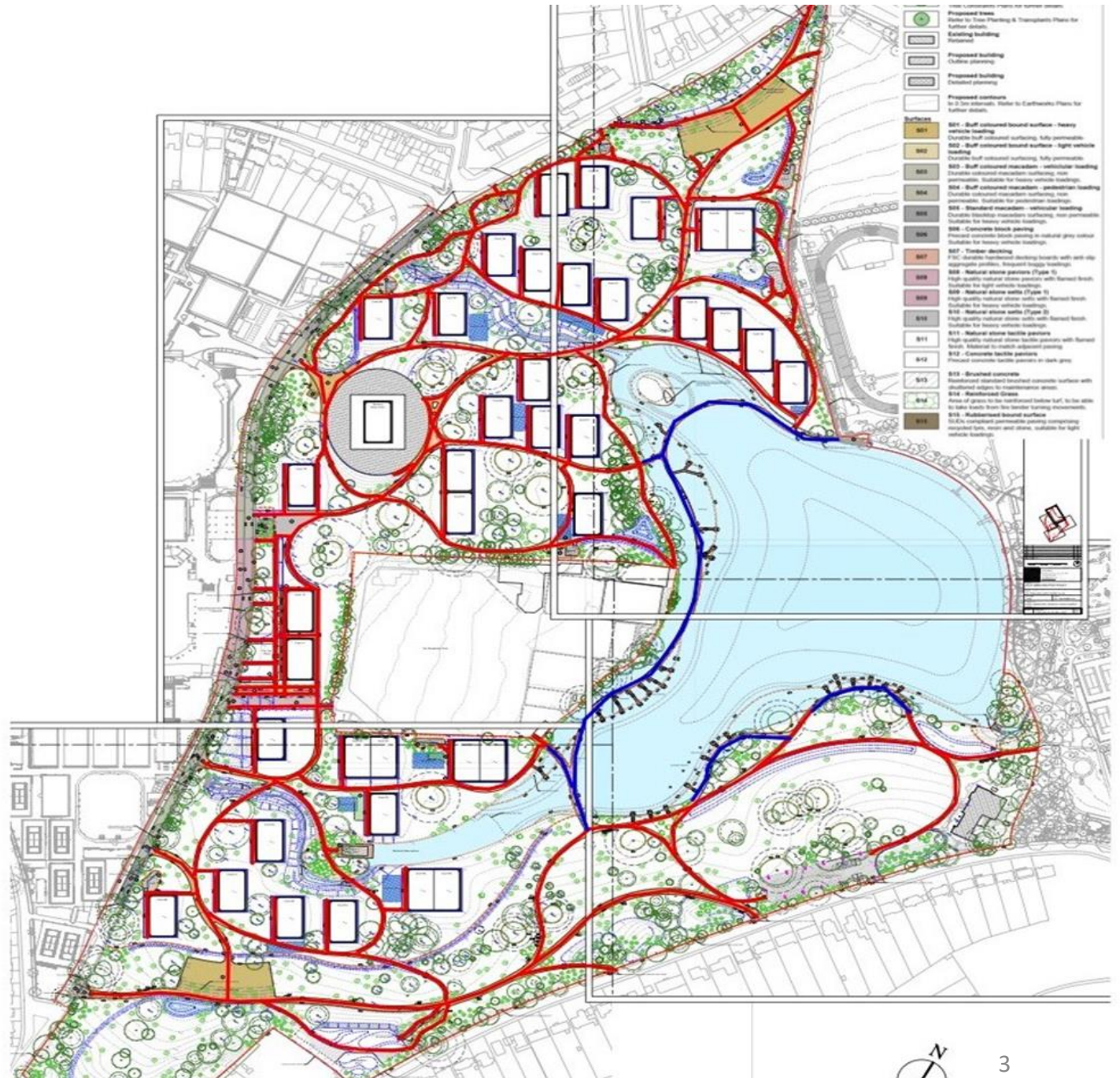


# What are they building?

Page 23

- Covered Stadium 28m high x 104m wide
- 38 other tennis courts
- 3,000 sq metre industrial maintenance
- 7 other maintenance hubs
- 2 player hubs
- 9 kms roads and paths

© Neil Thomson Landscape architect





## The 1993 Covenants Use and Building

Page 22

1. Not to use ... other than for leisure or recreational purposes or as an open space.
2. No building shall be erected ... other than ... ancillary to the recreational or open space use ... and which ... shall not impair the appreciation of the general public of the extent or openness of the property.

## 23 September 1993 Wimbledon Borough News

**Tony Colman, Merton Council Leader:**

*“Respecting the wishes of local people, this council is resolute that the land will be retained as open space. All England has bought the land knowing this is our policy and is aware that we would not allow development of the site.”*

**John Currie, All England Chairman:** *“We completely understand and support everyone’s determination to keep the land open and we purchased the land on that basis.”*



## The 1993 Covenants Walkway around the lake

3. As soon as golf ceases, to *dedicate* a public walkway *around* the Lake.

(Example notice from Bow Lane, City of London)

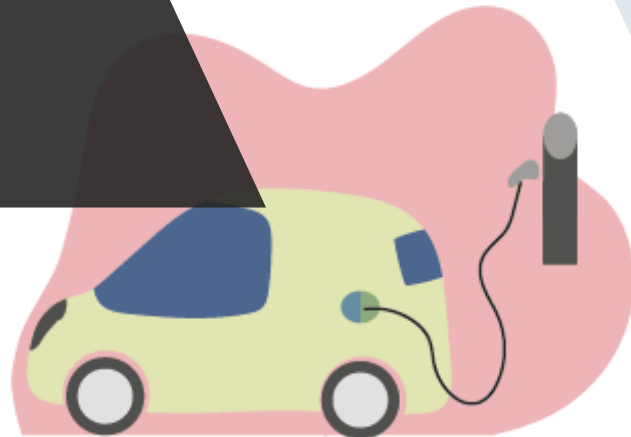
The landowner gives notice that this footpath has not been dedicated as a public footpath nor is there any intention to so dedicate it. The public is permitted to walk along this footpath. The landowner may withdraw permission, or temporarily close the path at any time.

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# Climate Action in Merton

- ▶ Amy Mallett - Climate Engagement Officer
- ▶ [amy.mallett@merton.gov.uk](mailto:amy.mallett@merton.gov.uk)



# Merton's Climate Targets

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## By 2030

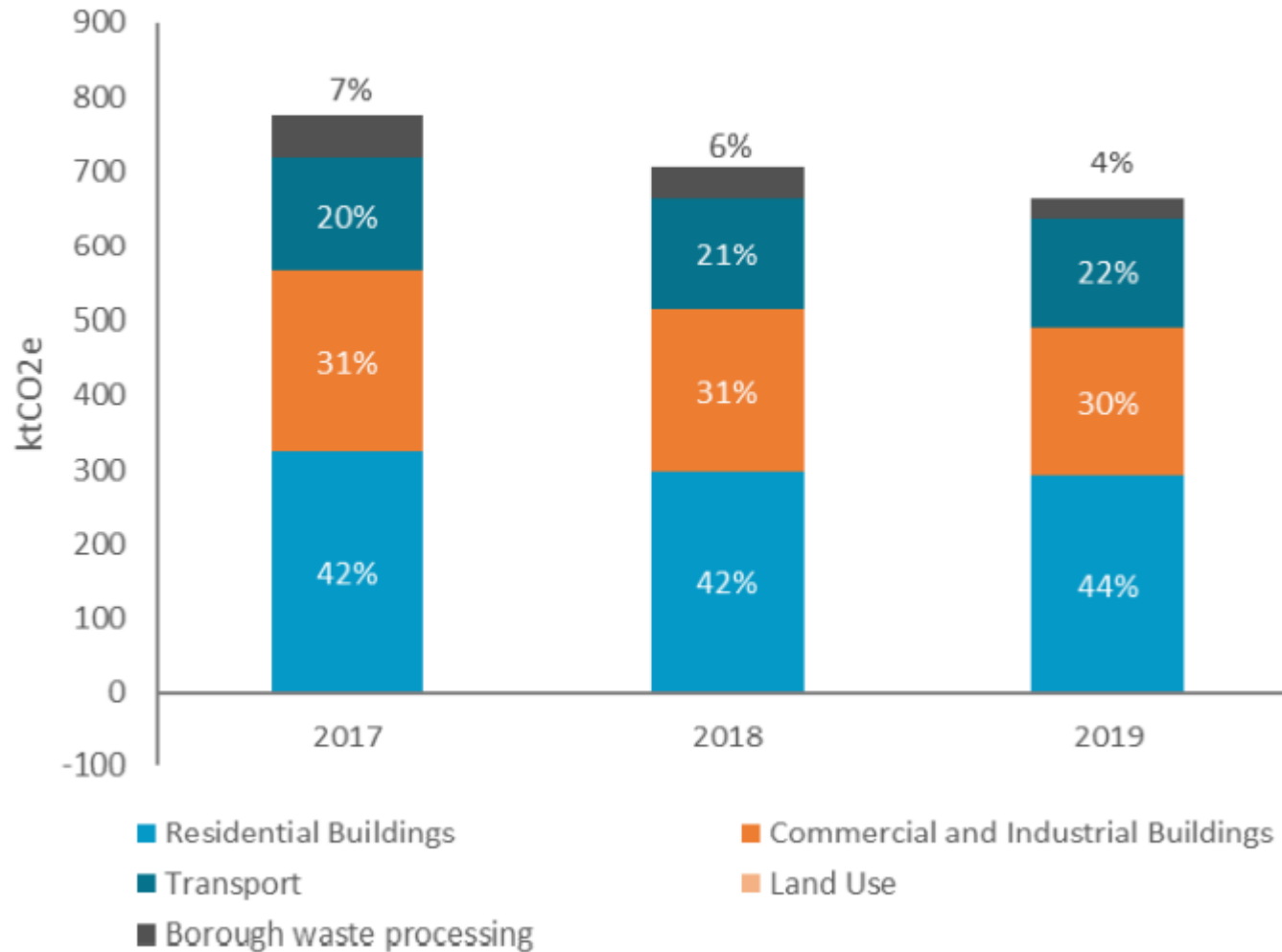
- a net-zero carbon Council (including Council maintained buildings e.g., community schools)

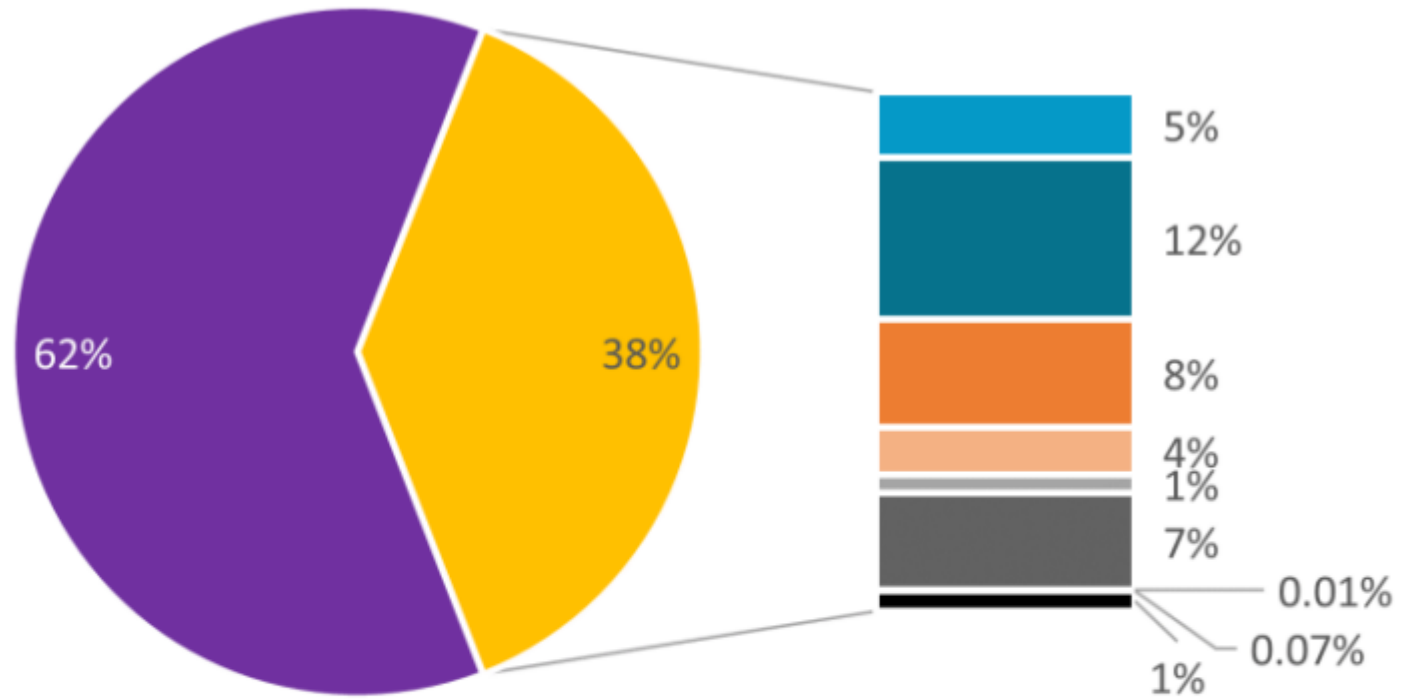
## By 2050

- a net-zero carbon borough




Figure 3: ktCO<sub>2</sub>e emissions for Merton Borough, 2017 - 2019





- Consumption-based emissions
- Residential (gas/other fuels)
- Residential (electricity)
- Commercial and Industrial (gas/other fuels)
- Commercial and Industrial (electricity)
- Transport (cars/LGVs/HGVs/motorbikes)
- Transport (buses and rail)
- Transport (other)
- Land Use
- Borough waste processing

# Identifying the problem we want to solve

A problem from 30,000ft	A problem from 300ft
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Everything is interconnected</li><li>➤ Nobody is doing anything</li><li>➤ It's unsolvable</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Getting stuck in the weeds</li><li>➤ Focusing too much on quick wins</li></ul>
	
consumer behaviour change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ The point where we can engage with hard-to-reached groups in a specific community</li></ul>

# Where does climate engagement come in?

## External Outcomes

- local behaviour change by emphasising and connecting residents with opportunities to live and work more sustainably.

the creation of local projects, local support and sustained interest in solutions which address shared priorities and reduce carbon emissions.

## Scope

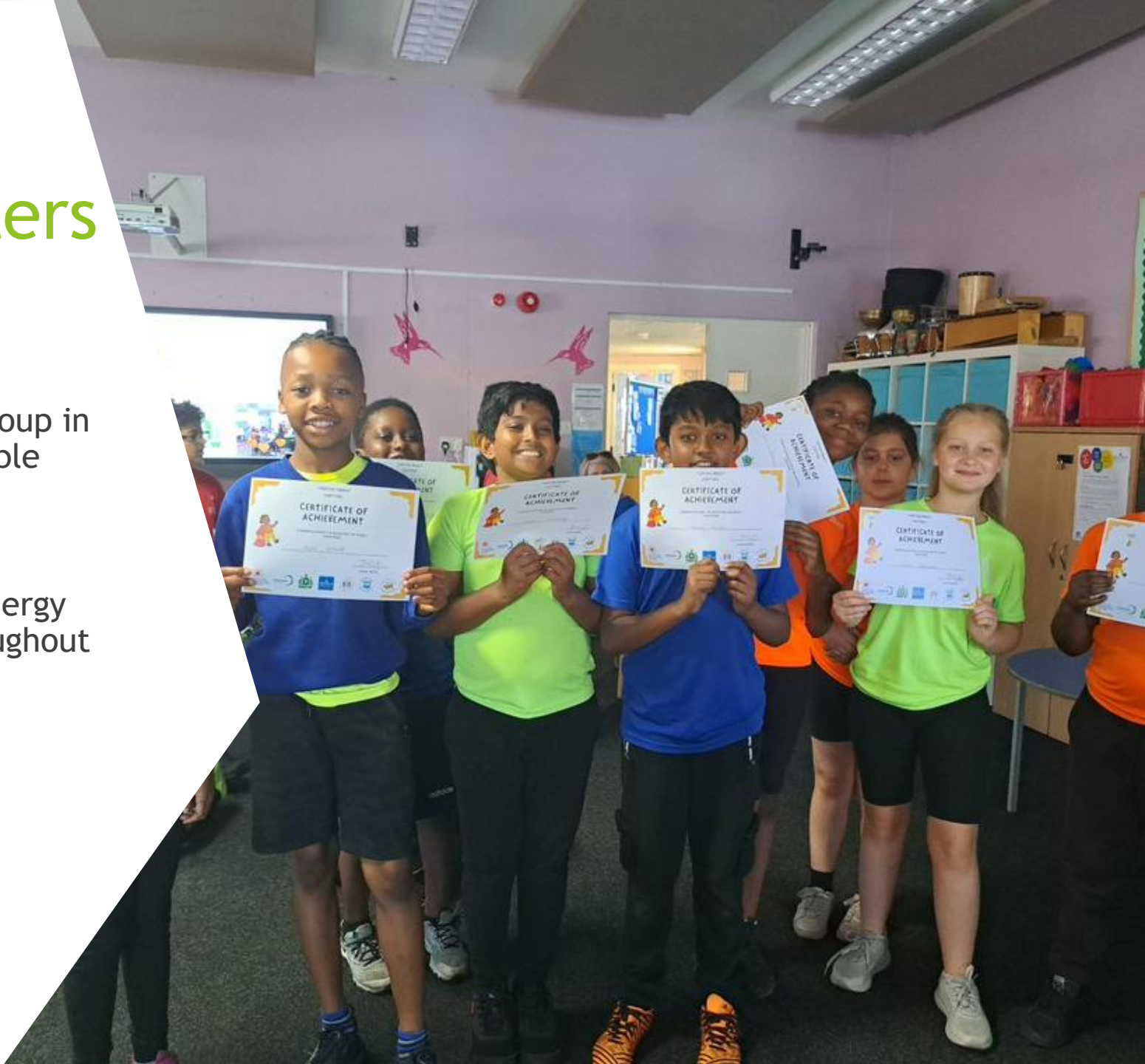
Engagement prioritised based on three tests:

- Will they complement actions in the Climate Strategy and Action Plan/Climate Delivery Plan?
- Will the engagement activities enable high impact emissions reductions?
- Will the engagement activities contribute to green economic development?

# Example - Energy Matters

- ▶ Developed by Merton's Climate Action Group in partnership with the Centre for Sustainable Energy and local delivery partners CREW

Aim - To work with schools to develop energy educator modules that can be used throughout the UK and support the education and empowerment of school children.





## Example -Merton Garden Streets

- ▶ Developed by Merton's Climate Action Group in partnership with Sustainable Merton
- ▶ Aim - To plant in underutilised spaces across the borough to improve biodiversity
- ▶ 115 streets signed up in 2022
- ▶ 10,000 volunteer hours invested in the project





# Example - The Wheel

- ▶ Developed by Merton's Climate Action Group in partnership with Sustainable Merton
- ▶ Aim - To embed the circular economy in Merton
- ▶ Repair Cafes and Upcycling Workshops
- ▶ Launch of digital hub
- ▶ Collaboration with UCL to look at embedding the CE on Merton Highstreets



For residents

Check out the local waste reduction and circular economy directory

[Read more](#)



For businesses

Learn about some of the local initiatives businesses can support to reduce waste

[Read more](#)



For schools

Here are some ideas for how schools and students can reduce waste

[Read more](#)

[Contact Us](#)

So far...



Merton Council @Merton\_Council · Jul 1  
Check out the first of our creative 'How to Videos' put together by young Residents & their families to encourage sustainable behaviour changes in #Merton

The lemon & lime infused coco butter lotion is a crowd pleaser! 🍋

Read more [ow.ly/9Mh150JLxRY](https://ow.ly/9Mh150JLxRY)

#MertonClimateAction



CANONS HOUSE & GROUNDS

# CYCLE CINEMA

PRESENTS

# WALL-E

FRIDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER

ARRIVE FROM 5PM

DR BIKE (FREE BIKE CHECKS AND MAINTENANCE)

AIR QUALITY TOOLS, FREEBIES AND MORE!

FILM (AND PEDALLING) STARTS AT 7PM!

No need to book, just turn up  
Come early to avoid disappointment  
as numbers are limited

Bring warm clothes, blankets and  
chairs

Weather dependant  
Event may be moved indoors

Check  
[thecanonsmitham.co.uk/events-activities](https://thecanonsmitham.co.uk/events-activities)  
on the day for  
updates



Schools Climate Kickstart

South Thames Colleges Solar Skills Bootcamp

Start Up School for Seniors

# GREEN CAREERS WEEK

Merton Council Climate Vacancies

Local Green Career Case Study



# SCHOOLS CLIMATE CONFERENCE

TUESDAY 8TH NOVEMBER

3PM TO 5PM  
THE CHAUCER CENTRE, CANTERBURY RD, MORDEN SM4 6PX



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## Business support for cost of living and climate action

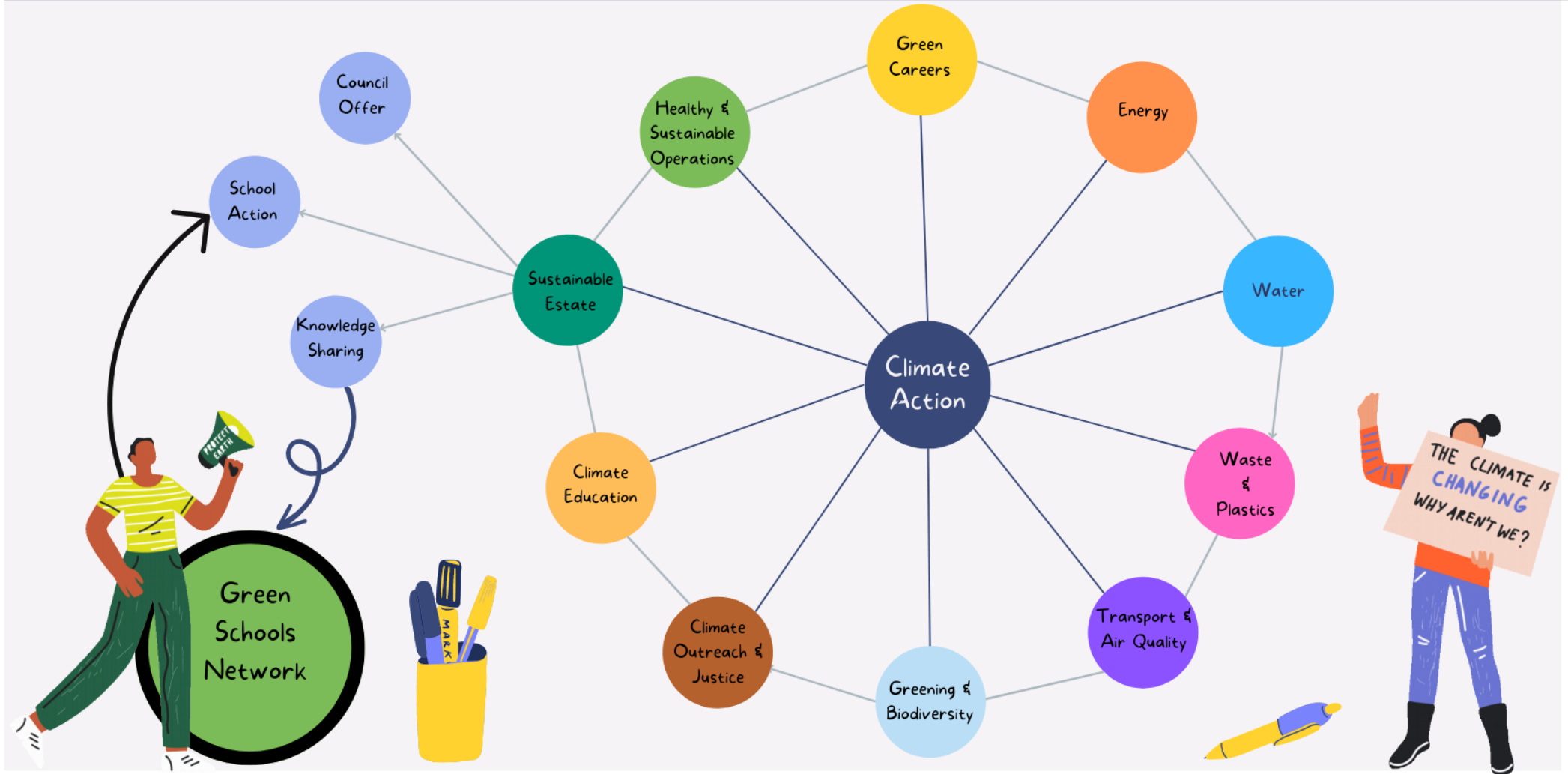
Join our Climate Action mailing list



## Merton success in Net Zero Innovation Programme Bid

15 November 2022 in Business, Clean streets, Environment, Environment and Recycling, Merton, Keep It Clean Love Merton, Recycling and waste.

# Merton's Green Schools Charter



End

[Merton's Climate Strategy and Action Plan](#)  
adopted in November 2020

[Climate Delivery Plan – Year 1](#)  
adopted in January 2021

[Climate Delivery Plan – Year 2](#)  
Adopted in February 2022



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# Agenda Item 9

RAYNES PARK COMMUNITY FORUM  
7 DECEMBER 2022

(7.15 pm - 9.15 pm)

PRESENT Councillors Councillor John Oliver (in the Chair),

## 1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (Agenda Item 1)

The meeting was held in Raynes Park Library and chaired by Councillor John Oliver with Tony Edwards from the Raynes Park Association (RPA). Around 20 residents and four councillors attended. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## 2 OPEN FORUM (Agenda Item 2)

Traffic safety was raised by resident in several locations. The resident asked if prevention barriers could be installed either side of Lower Downs Road Bridge to prevent further collisions. Chris Larkman from the RPA said Network Rail have looked at options in the past and ruled out barriers, however replacing a missing sign would be helpful. Councillors can raise this with Network Rail. Another resident said an option would be to close Lower Downs Road to through traffic.

The resident also raised the need for a pedestrian crossing at the junction between Kingston Road and Burstow Road due to the dangers caused by cars turning. This would be raised with the highways team. The resident also said the traffic on Grand Drive causes congestion all the way to the station and that parking meters have confusing signage on Approach Road.

A resident said that Raynes Park Library was closed last Monday, including access to toilets and the hall, despite having a group scheduled. It would have been better if notification had been given to the users and volunteers. In addition, a leak in roof was being repaired by engineers. The resident said volunteers needed an emergency number to call and some were considering reviving a Friends Group to work better with the Library staff. Cllr Stringer said this has been raised and some actions have been put in place like giving volunteers emergency contact details. The closure was due to staff sickness.

A resident asked about the Wimbledon Chase station planning application. This has gone to the Design Review Panel.

A resident asked about [Merton Local App](#) take up.

### 3 WEST BARNES UPDATE (Agenda Item 3)

Cllr Oliver said that the train timetable changing at Mostpur Park, reducing number of trains to London from six to four an hour. Cllr Oliver also said that he was collecting food donations on behalf of the [Community Fridge](#). Cllr Oliver said there would be a Carol service on Sunday at 2.30pm in the Crematorium

Cllr Flack said she had been in touch with Merton Council officers to make sure everyone sleeping rough was receiving support and had been told plans were in place. Cllr Flack said Bushey Road is now a 30mph road and whilst the road has painted signs some of the old 20MPH signs have yet to be changed over. There would be a litter pick at 2pm on Sunday, meeting by the Christmas tree.

Cllr Wilson said she had chased Thames Water about leaks in the area and whilst some have been fixed the one on Durham Road was proving to be more complicated. The work on Trinity place had been paused due to supply issues. There will be a consultation on parking on Kingston Road from mid-Jan to introduce restrictions wherever there are not parking spaces. The Council will be bidding for funding to provide a crossing on Bushey Road.

### 4 POLICE UPDATE (Agenda Item 4)

The police were not able to attend the meeting.

### 5 RAILWAY EMBANKMENT (Agenda Item 5)

Elizabeth Lane from the RPA provided an update on the area opposite Boots on the North side of railway. Network Rail (NR) has responded this week to give agreement to access the land. A risk assessment was completed and has been signed off. Elizabeth is getting a community licence to form a group and then will need to provide a Health and Safety briefing for all volunteers and NR will be sending in a team to clear some rubble. Elizabeth said she hoped to be able to move forward with the plan in January or February. Elizabeth has also applied to South Western Railway to adopt the station which has been approved. This means becoming part of the Community Rail Network. An initial grant of £250 will be used for planters on the platform, hopefully in the spring. Elizabeth also hopes to replace the shelves for the community book swap and run a weekly volunteering session to run alongside the embankment scheme.

Future options for the Community Rail Network could include Station in Bloom Awards, celebrating the coronation on 6 May, and the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Waterloo station in July, to help bring community together. Once these small steps are completed, Elizabeth wants to look bigger projects.



## 6 GENERAL UPDATES (Agenda Item 6)

Chris Larkman and Tony Edwards gave an update on local issues.

Kiss and Ride – Stephen Hammond has met with Workspace but no further progress  
The transfer of land south of the station is stuck between NR and Merton Council

The Parklet – some small damage needs repairing

Tree Strategy – a consultation on a draft strategy has been extended to end of November, the Tree Wardens group and the RPA have made responses. There are more than 31,000 trees to be looked after in Merton. Policies on trees not managed by Merton Council are to follow.

Flooding – the gully sensors are working well, and Thames Water have cleared silt so there was less flooding during recent heavy rainfall. Thames Water are doing a 6-month study on potential solutions including options like rain gardens. Funding has been agreed for this and should report back in July.

A resident said they were disappointed that Merton Council was chopping down trees for Christmas.

## 7 UPDATE FROM KINGSTON HOSPITAL CHARITY (Agenda Item 7)

Tracey Shaw from [Kingston Hospital Charity](#) gave a presentation on the work of the charity. They are attached to Kingston Hospital and provide benefits to patients over and above NHS services. The charity raises £1-1.5m each year, which is used to help developments for example a new facility for children with cancer. The funding helps the hospital to drive innovation, for example new 3D printing facility for items like hearing aids, and titanium limbs. Currently the charity is raising funds for secure bike storage for staff.

On 5 July 2023 the NHS will be celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the charity will be organising celebrations alongside other community organisations. Please [get in touch](#) if you want to be involved.

## 8 PLANNING UPDATE (Agenda Item 8)

Jon Dingle, Planning Consultant for Access Self-storage gave a presentation on plans for [the Manoplastics site](#). Jon said he had been involved in the site since 2010 and the site has been empty for 10 years. There is planning permission for both self-storage and for accommodation on the site but the new scheme is different.

The new scheme is for a mix of self-storage trade counters, and offices. The building would be set back 8m from road, with space for landscaping and pavements, and 30m away from the Church. There would be one building but in two forms, lower at front, larger to rear. There would be two vehicle access points, self-storage on the left, and trade counters on right. The design will need to make sure that the site can accommodate all the vehicle access needed and this is still a work in progress.

On first floor there would be small studios and workshops for light industry. There would be offices on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors on the front to Kingston Road. The height would be the same as residential plans previously agreed. The small offices would be for local start-ups and Small and Medium Enterprises. The self-storage behind the offices will go up to five floors. The front portion will hide storage facility and add interest to an attractive frontage.

They plan to finalise scheme by early 2023, then submit planning application in late January or early February and then, all being well, start on site in about a year's time. This scheme is more valuable than previously agreed schemes. There is high demand for self-storage and the other uses.

A resident said there are a lot of empty offices and shops in Raynes Park so queried if there really was a demand for additional office space. The resident also said they were concerned about appearance as it does not reflect an Edwardian suburb and should reflect brick-built area. Jon said the debate about design is legitimate, but it is an industrial building and the developer decided it should look like what it is. Access Self-storage is confident in take up of offices, based on demand for their existing supply. As they are new and serviced but affordable and let on a month-by-month basis so more flexible for SMEs than other sites would be.

A resident asked about the housing shortage and the need for more homes, and Jon replied that a private company owns site and wants to maximise their returns. A resident expressed concern about size and bulk of the design and Jon said that the scheme was aligned with the previously approved residential scheme, with same at size at front but not as big at the rear.

A resident asked about the impact on traffic and Jon explained that on an average day there would be around 300 vehicles, cars or small vans. The site would also be designed to be able to take HGVs, but it is likely to be no more than one a week.

A resident said that the signage needs to be discreet, and Jon said that attractive signage is integrated with the building and as the frontage is extremely important there is likely to be signage on the flank walls.

A resident asked about environmental standards including water harvesting, and solar panels. Jon said energy conservation and sustainability will be important but

cannot develop these until we have a basic design to work from. These aspects will be included in the Planning Application.

The Development Control team had provided an update that Kris Witherington shared.

- The LESSA site application has been called in by Secretary of State in October. We do not have a timetable for this process as yet.
- The 'Zero' flats at bottom of Edna Road are nearing completion. There has been some pre-application advice on two sites on Kingston Road.
- There are 11 planning enforcement cases in Raynes Park at the moment, five in relation to not following conditions of granted permission, six involve conducting work without appropriate permission.

## 9 LONDON ASSEMBLY UPDATE (Agenda Item 9)

Leonie Cooper, Assembly Member for Merton and Wandsworth, provided an update on the work of the Assembly. The Assembly scrutinises GLA family of organisation including the Metropolitan Police, London Fire Brigade, and Transport for London

Leonie said the leadership of the Met Police has changed from Cressida Dick to Mark Rowley, with the new Commissioner tasked with dealing with the problems of culture with some Met officers.

The new London Fire Brigade commissioner oversaw an [independent review of culture](#) in the Brigade, and this was recently published. The review found the Brigade to be institutionally racist and sexist. The Brigade has also changed policies on tall buildings post Grenfell and has brought new kit including 32m ladders. There are also using drones with thermal imaging.

Transport for London held two major consultations over the summer, expansion of the Ultra-Low Emission Zone and changes bus routes in central London. The result of the bus route is that only three routes will be cut, others merged, and there are no changes in Merton and Wandsworth. The ULEZ consultation had a lot of responses from outside of London. The Assembly met to change the Mayor's Transport Strategy to allow for vehicle charging in the future and extending the ULEZ from August 2023. The plans also included a [new scrappage scheme](#) worth £110m and extended exemptions or retrofitting. Leonie said it is more difficult to travel in outer London so more work to do to improve public transport.

A resident said that traffic problems on Bushey Road crossing with Grand Drive created an air quality issue and asked if air quality on the bus stop could be monitored. Leonie said residents can get hold of diffusion tubes from other groups

like [Breath London](#), whilst TfL does do some Air Quality monitoring it might be quicker to do some citizen science.

A resident asked about the new premises for the Assembly. Leonie said that the journey there is much worse and felt the Assembly should still be in heart of London. However, the new building is more sustainable and is owned by the GLA.

A resident asked about the impact of strikes and Leonie said that London is a very expensive place to live, and that a lot of public sector final salary schemes have closed. Many have not had a pay rise since 2010 but the cost of living has increased for interest rates, food, and fuel. There are lots of vacancies in public services like social care. There is a better relationship with the new Transport Secretary but the main conversation is about the deal with TfL rather than wider train problems.

Cllr Flack asked about the cost of rents, and Leonie said the Mayor has called for powers to be devolved to allow rents to be set or controlled. The Assembly has also called for reforms to Local Housing Allowance, but the Government was reluctant to agree. The Private Rented Sector was not rent controlled and often in poor condition with low energy efficiency.

Tony Edwards asked about sales of properties to overseas investors and Leonie said that many of the tall buildings along river are being marketed to people in Singapore and other overseas locations and then left empty. This should be constrained and the Mayor has used the London Plan to encourage developers to stick to higher standards but this is only relevant to larger schemes. Any change would need to be to national policy.

## 10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING (Agenda Item 10)

Cllr Oliver thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting

### **Date of next meeting:**

Tuesday 25 April 2023, at 7.15pm in Raynes Park Library

Any issues or questions can be emailed to [getinvolved@merton.gov.uk](mailto:getinvolved@merton.gov.uk)

## Liberal Democrat Non-Strategic Theme Motion

### Cost of living emergency – Free Period Products in Merton Council Buildings

Proposer: Councillor Chessie Flack

Seconder: Councillor Jenifer Gould

1. Council notes that:

- a. In June 2022, a Plan International UK survey found that nearly one in four girls in London were unable to afford period products since the start of the year, which was higher than the national rate.
- b. The charity found that girls across the country were cutting down on food and school supplies in order to afford period products.
- c. Surrey County Council, Oxford City Council and Southwark Council have all set up or agreed to schemes to provide free period products.
- d. In a YouGov survey undertaken last year two thirds of Britons supported making it a legal requirement for local authorities to provide free period products.

2. Council believes that:

- a. No-one should experience period poverty.

3. Council resolves to:

- a. Ask Cabinet to look at ways to provide free, and where possible sustainable, period products in all the council's public accessible toilets and buildings including the civic centre, libraries and community centres.

Cllr Chessie Flack

Cllr Jenifer Gould

Cllr Kirsten Galea

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## Liberal Democrat Non-Strategic Theme Motion

### Proceeds from the sale of CHAS

Proposer: Councillor Simon McGrath

Seconder: Councillor Paul Kohler

1. Council congratulates past and present officers who, over the years, have contributed to building the CHAS business into such a substantial asset for the benefit of the residents of Merton.
  
2. Council notes:
  - a. The sale of the CHAS business on 6 January 2023
  - b. That the report to Cabinet on 16 January 2023, "Business Plan Update 2023-2027" says (Section 5.1) says that "for the purposes of the MTFS it has been assumed, given current market conditions, that the return to the Council over the Medium Term will be approximately £5.25m"
  - c. That while the Council has not released to the public the amount received from the sale, the level of interest to be received shows that it must be very substantial.
  
3. Council believes that:
  - a. The receipt of such a large sum represents a very significant opportunity to improve the lives of residents and narrow inequalities in the Borough
  - b. All Merton residents should have the opportunity to engage in discussions about how this capital receipt should be used.
  
4. Council requests Cabinet to develop and bring back to a future Council meeting a plan for full engagement with Merton residents about how this money should be used.

Councillor Simon McGrath

Cllr Paul Kohler

Councillor Anthony Fairclough

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## Labour – non-strategic theme motion

### Standing Up for Merton Residents

Council notes that:

- The Conservative government crashed the UK economy, and they now want to make Merton residents pay for it by forcing councils to consider drastic savings and cuts to crucial services that residents rely on to pay for Conservative incompetence.
- Twelve years of Conservative austerity, supported by the Liberal Democrats in coalition, has decimated funding for local councils – with the real terms equivalent of 60p out of every £1 being slashed from council budgets since 2010.
- Despite the cuts which have been imposed on us by central government over the last twelve years, our fantastic and hardworking council staff, working together with our partners and our incredible Voluntary and Community Sector, have remained completely committed to delivering for the residents of Merton and helping the most vulnerable.
- When Labour took control of Merton in 2010 the council faced an immediate budget gap of £70 million, and the Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition took away half of our grant funding. Despite twelve years of austerity, sound financial management from Labour has allowed this council to pass a balanced budget each year, and kept council tax lower than all of our neighbouring outer-London boroughs.
- Conservative economic mismanagement, soaring energy costs, rising bills and inflation reaching a 41 year high, mean Merton is now under unprecedented pressure to balance our budget. This is on top of a significant loss of income from fees and charges since the pandemic, and yet another real-terms cut in funding by the Conservative government.
- The cross-party Local Government Association has long highlighted that council tax rises, particularly the adult social care precept, have never been the solution to the long term pressures faced by councils.

Council welcomes:

- The work of councillors and officers to identify the necessary savings to bridge the funding gap Merton Council is facing, while protecting service delivery. And that these proposals have been produced in line with our values.
- That the Autumn Statement from government in November last year went some way to plugging budget holes, but not nearly far enough, and lacked the long-term sustainable funding plan local government needed.

- The increase in local government core spending power announced in the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2023/24, which will help to alleviate the pressures put on council finances by the government's failure to properly tackle rising inflation, growing demand for social care, and the cost of living emergency. However, this government's funding plans expect councils to raise council tax by the maximum amount permitted without a referendum in order to meet the gaps in funding, effectively forcing councils to raise tax during a cost of living emergency to cover the government's unwillingness to fund councils properly.
- The support this Labour Council is giving Merton residents, including one of the most generous council tax support schemes in the UK, a £60 cost of living voucher for 10,000 residents in receipt of council tax support, paid from the Council's £2 million Cost of Living Fund, and the proposed 1% discount on council tax bills for council taxpayers living in Bands A-D.
- The recommendations of Labour's Commission on the UK's Future, chaired by Gordon Brown, that decisions should be taken as close as meaningfully and practicably possible to the people affected by them and with longer-term financial settlements for local government, in order to provide certainty and move away from the model of ad hoc bidding for central government funding pots.

Council resolves:

- That the Leader of the Council should write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and call on the government to take responsibility for their reckless mismanagement of the economy, to stop taking it out on Merton residents, and to provide the long-term sustainable funding that councils so desperately need to deliver the vital services and support that people in our communities, especially the most vulnerable, rely on.
- To ensure that measures taken in Merton Council's budget process prioritise the protection of service delivery, in particular those which support the most vulnerable in our communities and support our residents through the cost of living emergency.
- To ensure that Merton maintains comprehensive council tax support provision to assist those households who cannot afford to pay.

Councillor Ross Garrod

Councillor Eleanor Stringer

Councillor Billy Christie

## Conservative non-strategic theme motion

### ULEZ Consultation

Council notes with grave concern that the Mayor of London has led a campaign to disenfranchise Londoners, including our residents in Merton, regarding support for the ULEZ expansion.

The Mayor of London has:

- Repeatedly made false statements to the GLA Assembly and the press about the ULEZ and the consultation;
- Manipulated the consultation and the results by excluding more than 5,200 consultation responses from the results thereby disenfranchising Londoners who do not wish to be hit by the ULEZ tax;
- Broken his promise that the ULEZ expansion would not go ahead if there was significant opposition.

Therefore, council calls upon the cabinet to:

- Write to the Mayor of London and demand that the ULEZ expansion is immediately halted;
- Refuse to allow the installation of any ULEZ infrastructure;
- Call for a new comprehensive, free, and fair consultation across all of London;
- Support Conservative demands for an immediate investigation into the conduct of the Mayor and support any potential future public inquiry.

Cllr Nick McLean

Cllr Eleanor Cox

Cllr Michael Paterson

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## **Committee: Council**

**Date: 1 February 2023**

## **Subject: Calendar of Meetings 2023/24**

Lead officer: Louise Round, Interim Director Innovation and Change

Lead member: Cllr Billy Christie, Cabinet Member Finance and Corporate Services

Contact officer: Amy Dumitrescu, Democracy Services Manager

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### **Recommendations:**

- A. That Council approves the Calendar of Meetings at Appendix A
  - B. That Council approves the dates of Council meetings for 2023-2026 in Appendix B
- 

### **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1. To propose a calendar of meetings for Council bodies for 2023-24 and for the meetings of Council for 2023-2026.

### **2 DETAILS**

- 2.1. The details are set out at Appendix A and B.
- 2.2. It is noted that the dates approved by Council on 2 February 2022 for Council dates 2023-2026 required subsequent amendments and therefore the dates are now re-submitted for approval by Council.

### **3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 3.1. The Council can make whatever arrangements it sees fit in respect of the calendar within the legal constraints set out below. The Council should also have regard to audit and accounting requirements in respect of submission of the Annual Governance Statement by the end of June in each year and the approval of the Final Accounts by the end of September in each year.

### **4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

- 4.1. The executive leader has been consulted in respect of the executive meeting schedule. Group offices and leaders have been consulted and their comments taken into account where possible.

### **5 TIMETABLE**

- 5.1. The calendar covers the period from immediately after the 2023 Annual meeting up to and including the Annual meeting 2024; and meetings of the Council between May 2023 and 2026.

### **6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1. None for the purposes of this report.

### **7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1. In borough election years the Council must hold its annual meeting between 12 and 25 days after the election. In other years the annual meeting must be held in March, April or May.

7.2. The Council must hold a meeting to agree its budget by 11 March in each year.

## **8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**

8.1. Publishing a calendar of meetings in advance is important in giving people information about when the Council proposes to do its business and take decisions which affect the community and individuals.

## **9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

9.1. None.

## **10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

10.1. It is important for the proper discharge of the Council's duties that a proper framework for decision making is established including the scheduling of meetings in advance to allow for business reports to be properly prepared for decision making bodies.

## **11 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT**

- Appendix A – Calendar of meetings
- Appendix B – Council meetings for the period 2023 - 2026

## **12 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

12.1. None.

2023-24	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24
<b>COUNCIL</b>													
Annual (2)	17												22
Ordinary (5)			12		13		15			7			
Council budget (1)											6		
<b>EXECUTIVE (inc LSG)</b>													
Cabinet (11)		19	17		18	16	6	4	15	12	18		
LSG (9)		5	3	21	4	2	13	11 & 21	22	26			
<b>SCRUTINY</b>													
Overview and Scrutiny Commission (6)			5		6		8		24	26	13		
Healthier Communities and Older People OSP (6)		20			5	31			9	14	12		
Children and Young People OSP (6)		21			20		1		10	1	11		
Sustainable Communities OSP (6)		26			11		2		18	29	5		
Overview and Scrutiny Topic Workshops		6 & 7											
<b>NON-EXEC &amp; ADVISORY</b>													
Standards and General Purposes Committee (4)			19		14		9				7		
Borough Plan Advisory Committee (4)		8			7		22				21		
Licensing Committee (3)		28				17				13			
Planning Applications Committee (12) Thurs		15	20	17	21	19	16	7	11	15	14	25	
Pensions Committee (4)		29				12	30				20		
<b>OTHER</b>													
Wimbledon Forum (4)		14			20		29				19		
Raynes Park Forum (4)		28			19			6			21		
Morden Forum (2)						18				28			
Mitcham Forum (2)						5				27			
Colliers Wood Forum (1)						3							
JCC (4)		13			12			5			19		
<b>JOINT COMMITTEES</b>													
Health and Well-Being Board (5) (6.15pm) Tues		27			19		28		23		19		
South London Waste Partnership Joint Committee 6.30pm* (4)		15			tbc			tbc					
North East Surrey Crematorium Board** (10.00am) (4)		20			5			5			tbc		
Merton and Sutton Joint Cemetery Board 2.00pm		13								27			
<b>Final budget round meetings in bold</b>													

\* TBC with joint Boroughs

\*\*TBC with Sutton and LBW

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2023-2024	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24
<b>COUNCIL</b>												
Annual (1)	17											
Ordinary (5)			12		13		15			7		
Council budget (1)											6	

2024-2025	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25
<b>COUNCIL</b>												
Annual (1)	22											
Ordinary (5)			17		18		20			5		2
Council budget (1)											5	

2025-2026	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26
<b>COUNCIL</b>													
Annual (1)	21												20
Ordinary (5)			16		17		19			4			
Council budget (1)											4		

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**Committee: Council**

**Date: 1 February 2023**

**Subject: Changes to Membership of Committees and related matters**

Lead officer: Hannah Doody, Chief Executive

Contact officer: Amy Dumitrescu, Democracy Services Manager

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**Recommendations:**

That the Council:

1. Notes the changes to the membership of Committees that were approved under delegated authority since the last meeting of the Council.
- 

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1. This report asks Council to note the changes made to committee memberships under delegated authority since the publication of the agenda for the last ordinary Council meeting on 16 November 2022.

**2 DETAILS**

- 2.1. The following membership changes have been made by the Chief Executive under their delegated authority in accordance with part 3E of the Constitution:
- 2.2.

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Member resigning</b>	<b>Replaced by</b>	<b>Date</b>
Standards and General Purposes Committee	Cllr Stephen Alambritis	Cllr Caroline Charles	17 November 2022
Standards and General Purposes Committee	Cllr Brenda Fraser	Cllr Gill Manly	17 November 2022
Standards and General Purposes Committee	Cllr Caroline Cooper-Marbiah	Cllr Laxmi Attawar	17 November 2022
Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Cllr Dennis Pearce	Cllr James Williscroft	21 November 2022
Planning Applications Committee	Cllr Thomas Barlow	Cllr Michael Paterson	5 December 2022
Appointments Sub-Committee: Executive Director Innovation & Change	NA	Cllr Ross Garrod, Cllr Sally Kenny, Cllr Billy Christie, Cllr Victoria Wilson & Cllr Michael Paterson	21 December 2022
Appointments Sub-Committee: Executive Director Housing and Sustainable Development	NA	Cllr Ross Garrod, Cllr Andrew Judge, Cllr Eleanor Stringer, Cllr Anthony Fairclough & Cllr Max Austin	21 December 2022
Appointments Sub-Committee: Executive Director Adult Social Care Integrated Care and Public Health	NA	Cllr Ross Garrod, Cllr Peter McCabe, Cllr Brenda Fraser, Cllr Susie Hicks & Cllr Michael Paterson	21 December 2022
Appointments Sub-Committee: Executive Director Finance and Digital	NA	Cllr Ross Garrod, Cllr Billy Christie, Cllr Caroline Cooper-Marbiah, Cllr Paul Kohler & Cllr Daniel Holden	21 December 2022
Appointments Sub-Committee: Executive Director Environment, Civic Pride & Climate	NA	Cllr Ross Garrod, Cllr Eleanor Stringer, Cllr Natasha Irons, Cllr Jenifer Gould & Cllr Nick McLean	21 December 2022
Planning Applications Committee	Cllr Michael Paterson	Cllr Thomas Barlow	12 January 2023

### **3 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

3.1 None for the purposes of this report.

### **4 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1. None for the purposes of this report.

### **5 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1. The information regarding membership changes in this report complies with legal and statutory requirements. Council is required to accept nominations made by political groups.

5.2. The Housing and Local Government Act 1989 contains provisions relating to the political balance on committees, the duty to allocate seats to political groups and the duty to give effect to allocations.

### **6 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**

6.1. None for the purposes of this report.

### **7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

7.1. None for the purposes of this report.

### **8 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

8.1. N/A

### **9 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT**

9.1 None.

### **10 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Documents from the authorised officer confirming approval of the membership changes agreed under delegated authority.

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**Committee: Council**

**Date: 1 February 2023**

**Subject: Petitions**

Lead officer: Louise Round, Interim Executive Director Innovation and Change

Lead member: Leader of the Council, Councillor Ross Garrod

Contact officer: Amy Dumitrescu, Democracy Services Manager

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**Recommendation:**

1. That Council receive petitions (if any) in accordance with Part 4A, paragraph 18.1 of the Council's Constitution.
  2. That Council notes the responses provided to the petitions submitted at the meeting held on 16 November 2022.
- 

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1. This report invites Council to receive petitions in accordance with Part 4A, paragraph 18.1 of the Council's Constitution.

**2 DETAILS**

- 2.1. At the meeting held on 16 November 2022, the three petitions listed below were submitted and the responses are set out below. Any petitions received by Council are referred to respective departments with responsible officers asked to advise the presenting member in each case of the way in which the petition is to be progressed.

**Petition One**

A petition and accompanying letter was submitted by Councillor Fairclough which "urged you to take steps to ban the use of pesticides in Merton and warn people about the damage it does to our pollinators"

**Officer Response**

*The council and its service providers at Idverde UK and Veolia are working hard to seek both environmental and sustainable solutions to the management of pernicious weeds in both our parks and street scene environments so as to limit the impact to wildlife.*

*To this end and working with council colleagues in Climate Action and partners at Sustainable Merton and Merton Garden Streets the use of Glyphosate to control pernicious weeds in all 90 Merton Garden Streets (Excel spreadsheet attached) ceased from June 2022. This action in 2022 has resulted in the reduction of Glyphosate use in Merton by 18.1% from 2021 figures.*

*The council are also working with service providers at Idverde UK and their commercial partners at Rigby Taylor, and will be commencing alternative weed application trial in February 2023 using Pelagonic acid, naturally found in plants and dries out weeds. The product has shown strong performance in amenity trials across the UK in recent years, out performing other alternatives like Foam*

*Stream and Heat Control. The below trial locations will commence in February 2023 and continue for one full growing season;*

- **Street Scene** across all street pavements and kerb lines in **Wandle Ward**.
- **Hard and Soft Landscape in South Park Gardens (Wimbledon) and Canons House and Ground (Mitcham)** two key horticultural park sites in West and East of Merton

*If trials are successful in 2023-24 in parks and street scene locations above, we could adopt the use of Pelagonic acid for the control of all non-reportable weeds in Merton moving forward.*

### **Petition Two**

A petition was submitted by Councillor McLean entitled K5 Bus Shelter petition which stated “support to request to the bus company to provide a bus shelter on both sides of Motspur Park village. They would provide much needed protection from the sun in the summer months and inclement weather in the winter for residents of all ages”.

#### **Initial Officer Response**

*Having spoken to TfL who are responsible for this matter, they have confirmed they will install 2 bus shelters once suitable locations have been identified. This is likely to be part of the 2023/4 financial year.*

#### **Updated Officer Response**

*The locations have been identified and the bus shelters will be installed during February / March 2023.*

### **Petition Three**

A petition was submitted by Councillor Gould entitled “Crossing to be implemented on Bushey Road” which stated “we the undersigned request the installation of a pedestrian crossing on Bushey Road between Prince George’s Avenue and Prince George’s Playing fields. Local residents and families would benefit from a safe place to cross”.

#### **Officer Response**

*It is good to know that there is support for a crossing facility. The Council can confirm that the provision of a signalised crossing has been on our programme for couple of years but until now we have not been able to secure the necessary funding. However, we have recently secured the necessary funding to undertake surveys and complete the feasibility study and design within this financial year. The actual implementation of a signalised crossing would depend on obtaining approval from TfL and securing further funding within next financial year.*



2.6 Members are invited to present petitions at this meeting, and a response will be provided to the next ordinary Council meeting in April 2023.

### **3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

3.1. None for the purposes of this report.

### **4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

4.1. None for the purpose of this report.

### **5 TIMETABLE**

5.1. None for the purpose of this report.

### **6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1. None for the purpose of this report.

### **7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

7.1. None for the purpose of this report.

### **8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**

8.1. None for the purpose of this report.

### **9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

9.1. None for the purpose of this report.

### **10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

### **11 APPENDICES**

11.1. None

### **12 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

12.1. None.

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