

<b>LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON</b>	
	<b><u>NOTES OF MEETING</u></b>
	<b>Subject: Morden Community Forum</b>
	<b>Date: 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016</b> <b>Time: 19.15</b>
<b>Action Needed By:</b>	
	<p>1. <b><u>Welcome and Introductions</u></b></p> <p>1.1 Cllr. Philip Jones welcomed everybody to the meeting.</p> <p>1.2 Approximately 30 residents attended, as well as 13 councillors, and officers from the council and its partners.</p>
	<p>2. <b><u>Police update</u></b></p> <p>2.1 PC Mark Belcher updated residents on crime in Merton, informing them that it is a safe borough, with 2,803 crimes in the last 12 months compared to 7,462 in Lambeth.</p> <p>2.2 The areas suffering from crime the most in Morden are Hillcross Avenue and the St Helier Estate, though crime levels here are still fairly low.</p> <p>2.3 There have been problems with Asian youths in Morden town centre dealing drugs and stealing from local shops. The police are working on dealing with this as well as on problems with in-fighting between Tamil groups in Mitcham.</p> <p>2.4 Morden is still a controlled drinking zone.</p> <p>2.5 There has been a slight rise in cold calling, with callers especially targeting vulnerable people. PC Belcher advised the best approach is not to engage with such callers.</p> <p>2.6 People gathering out-of-hours in the Sainsbury's car park are being moved on.</p> <p>2.7 The police have arrested and charged someone for the murder that took place in Morden a couple of weeks earlier.</p> <p>2.8 There are no budget cuts taking place this year to the Met Police, and PCSOs will be kept in place.</p>
	<p>3. <b><u>Scrutiny topics for 2016-17</u></b></p> <p>3.1 Stella Akintan, a Scrutiny Officer at the council, explained that the Overview and Scrutiny committee in Merton exists to look at the services the council provides and how these might be improved.</p> <p>3.2 The Scrutiny team is currently looking at which services should be investigated over the coming year by the Overview and Scrutiny committee</p>

	<p>3.3 Topics for investigation have to be borough-wide, not matters that might affect only individuals. Previous topics that have been explored include Cleaner Town Centres, Housing, Childhood Immunisation, and Outsourcing.</p> <p>3.4 Residents can recommend topics to the team by contacting <a href="mailto:scrutiny@merton.gov.uk">scrutiny@merton.gov.uk</a> or 020 8545 3390.</p>
	<p>4a. <b><u>Morden Town Centre update</u></b></p> <p>4.1 Future Merton manager, Paul McGarry, presented on the results of the consultation that the council undertook about the regeneration of Morden Town Centre  <a href="http://www.merton.gov.uk/community-living/communityforums/mordencommunityforum.htm">http://www.merton.gov.uk/community-living/communityforums/mordencommunityforum.htm</a></p> <p>4.2 In April 2016, the council will receive money to start re-designing Morden's roads. This will be a three-year project, from the initial phase of modelling what's happening now through to designing a new road scheme, obtaining TfL's approval, and building the new road layout.</p> <p>4.3 In response to questions, Paul McGarry explained:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Retail Gateway New Homes bonus is funding the council receives for building new homes. It is a grant to help boost the local economy.</li> <li>• The council will not be becoming a social landlord again.</li> <li>• It's not yet known which types of retail units will be part of the regeneration scheme. The council will work with a development partner to look at what shops could go where.</li> <li>• The council is not responsible for black metal balconies that have been erected on Morden's art deco building. These appeared without planning permission. The council is however looking to improve the building.</li> <li>• There are two proposed tramlink schemes: the council is still looking at how it might deliver the Morden Road to Sutton scheme; the other scheme is for a link between Morden Road and South Wimbledon. The council is currently exploring where this link could go. Neither link would impact upon Crossrail 2.</li> </ul> <p>4b <b><u>Regeneration of Eastfields, Ravensbury and High Path</u></b></p> <p>4.4 Paul explained that the council is currently carrying out a consultation on the Estates Local Plan for Eastfields, Ravensbury and High Path. This entails putting planning policies in place for the three estates, which will be applicable for 10 years for any development on the estates. The consultation is separate to a consultation run by Circle Housing, which is also about development on the estates.</p>

	<p>4.5 Residents are encouraged to respond to the council's consultation, which runs until 18<sup>th</sup> March, by visiting <a href="http://www.merton.gov.uk/estatesplan">www.merton.gov.uk/estatesplan</a>.</p>
CJ	<p>5a. <b><u>Morden Leisure Centre Update</u></b></p> <p>5.1 Christine Parsloe, the Leisure and Culture Development Manager at Merton Council, and Christopher Jones from Sweett (UK) Ltd, the principal designers for the proposed new leisure centre, presented an update on the plans <a href="http://www.merton.gov.uk/community-living/communityforums/mordencommunityforum.htm">http://www.merton.gov.uk/community-living/communityforums/mordencommunityforum.htm</a>. These plans will appear on the council's website in March 2016 once the planning application is in and the designs have been amended to take account of public consultation comments.</p> <p>5.2 Further consultation is now taking place with residents, users of the leisure centre and sporting groups. Residents can drop in to the civic centre (11.30am - 2pm) or the leisure centre (4.30pm - 7.30pm) on 11<sup>th</sup> February to find out more</p> <p>5.3 The new centre will be fully accessible and DDA-compliant. The team is also consulting with Merton's Centre for Independent Living to get its views on accessibility requirements. It is hoped the centre will have a pool pod, which serves like a lift, to help people get into the pool. There will also be a moveable floor to assist with entering the pool.</p> <p>5.4 The new pool will be ASA-compliant, 25m long, with six lanes and wider than the current pool. There will be room for spectators, but the provision of timing facilities is budget-dependent. Consultation is taking place with swimming and diving clubs to find out their requirements. Sport England have informed the council that a 50m pool is not needed in Morden and there would not be demand for it.</p> <p>5.5 An extra £1.7-1.9m is needed for the sport hall that could be built within the new centre.</p> <p>5.6 The new centre will be as sustainable as possible and has to meet renewable energy requirements. There will be solar panels on the roof and the building fabric will be sustainable. Air from the fitness suite will be used to heat the swimming pool. Chris Jones agreed to look into ground source heating for the pool.</p> <p>5.7 The budget for demolition of the existing leisure centre is included within the current cost plan, and the demolition will be submitted within the same planning application as the new development. The existing leisure centre site will be turned into natural landscape.</p>

	<p>5b <b><u>Morden Park Playing Fields</u></b></p> <p>5.8 Ray Skinner from the Morden Park Playing Fields Community Trust explained plans for developing the playing fields, including a pavilion. The trust has tried to come up with a scheme that complements the new leisure centre proposals.</p> <p>5.9 It was acknowledged that parking could become problematic in the park and that this was an issue that would need further exploration.</p> <p>5.10 In dry weather, the football pitches could all be used together, but in winter, usage would need to be rotated.</p> <p>5.11 Councillor Stephen Alambritis welcomed the Trust's plans and thanked the Trust for working to complement the leisure centre proposals.</p>
PM	<p>6. <b><u>Soapbox</u></b></p> <p>7.1 Local resident Gillian Clarke gave thanks for the organised litter picking that volunteers did in Morden Park and the playing fields.</p> <p>7.2 In response to whether the council could repair the area behind the Registry Office that leads to the park, which has been damaged by bad weather and vehicles driving over it, it was noted that Doug Napier from the council's parks and greenspaces has said that his team will look to repair the damage. However, the site will need to be allowed to dry out first.</p> <p>7.3 A local resident commented that some street signs in the borough might be too low and below the recommended levels as he hit his head on one by St Helier Station. Paul McGarry agreed to report the matter to Highways.</p>