

**1. From: Tom Killick**

**To the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance**

Further to the Council's answer to question 2 at 4 July Council meeting, what has the Council done since then to promote the use of reusable coffee cups and decrease the sale of single use plastics on its premises?

**Reply**

Merton has been engaging with the commercial catering company (Gosto Fino) that holds a formal concessionary contract for the civic centre. Contractually, it can only indirectly influence some operational elements and encourage the supplier to adopt ideas and good practice where this is commercially viable. The dialogue with Gosto Fino has been positive and the following changes are planned: reusable cups are to be introduced from the start of 2019 as an alternative to plastic lined paper cups. These will be purchased by customers as a one off cost and then provide a discount on any future beverages purchased. Customers will also be encouraged to bring their own cups and obtain a similar discount. Plastic cups will no longer be provided unless a customer specifically asks for one. Plastic straws are already no longer being supplied and suitable biodegradable paper alternatives are now given to customers. Metal cutlery will also be used rather than plastic cutlery for food consumed within any of the restaurant areas. For take away meals the supplier is currently trialling the use of disposable wooden cutlery. They are also looking at suitable alternatives to replace plastic salad containers and expanded foam hot food containers.

**2. From: Jeremy Woods**

**To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Cleanliness**

What specifically is being done to prevent litter from fly tipping, failure to empty street litter bins, lack of adequate provision of street litter bins and failure to collect street cleaners' piles of collected green sacks?

**Reply**

Fly tipping is increasing in London and elsewhere in the UK and we are working hard to tackle those who cause this blight on our towns and neighbourhoods. We have measures in place to help towards the prevention and reduce litter and fly tipping. We have Enforcement Officers who issue a Fixed Penalty Notice to anyone caught depositing litter and dumping waste. For larger scale fly tips we prosecute where we have evidence of who may have deposited the waste. The evidence may come from someone witnessing the waste being dumped to evidence of the names and addresses retrieved from within the waste. Where we have known fly tip hot spot areas we may install a covert camera, where the necessary court authority has been given.

We have a number of litter bins that are placed within the borough in areas of residential properties, main shopping and small parades. Where there is a demand for a litter bin, each site will be assessed for need. We have relocated litter bins where they were not being used and relocated them to other locations.

We are working closely with our contractor to reduce the number of locations where the beat sweepers leave the green litter sacks. The agreed locations are being scheduled into the 'In Cab' system operated by the response crews for collection.

Finally, our new waste collection service is designed to reduce the amount of litter that gets on our streets. The Tidy Britain Group estimate that up to 50% of street litter was caused by our previous black bag collection. Whilst it is early days we are positive about the beneficial effect that the new arrangements will have on the environment.

**3. From: Tony Burton  
To the Cabinet Member for Community and Culture**

Following the public celebration of the completion of the Rediscover Mitcham project will Merton Council provide a map and details of the areas of green space in Mitcham town centre proposed to be registered as Town Green and a timetable for this registration?

**Reply**

Merton Council has provided maps of the proposed green space designations in our Rediscover Mitcham newsletters. See page 8 of [https://www.merton.gov.uk/assets/Documents/0499\\_rediscover\\_mitcham.pdf](https://www.merton.gov.uk/assets/Documents/0499_rediscover_mitcham.pdf)

Re-registration of the new boundaries is subject to staff resources and time. At present the process is a non-priority priority action in the team's demanding work programme.

**4. From: Philip Ling  
To the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance**

What discussions has Merton Council had with the Living Wage Foundation about becoming a living wage accredited employer?

**Reply**

Merton as an employer already pays the London Living Wage ensuring that no staff are paid below that level.

To become an accredited employer Merton would also need to require (or be working toward) its contractors to pay at least the London Living Wage.

The Council has ensured that contracts recently awarded pay the London Living Wage, however we have not had any formal discussion about committing to become accredited with the Living Wage Foundation.

**5. From: Geoff Cooper  
To the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Housing and Transport**

How is Merton monitoring the usage of electric car charging points across the borough and which locations have proved the most and least popular to date?

**Reply**

As part of the normal contract monitoring the council receives quarterly updates for publically accessible electric charge points managed by Source London. September 2018 was the best month to date with 566 charged hours. Over the last 4 months there has been 1800 hrs of charging representing around 40,000 green miles.

- The busiest site in September was Dudley Road with 17 customers and 44 charges
- The least busy site was St Barnabas Road with 1 customer and 3 charges
- Most used in 2018 - Wimbledon High Street
- Least used in 2018 – Strathearn Road.

By the end of 2018 Merton should have 67 publically accessible chargers across the borough (65 no 7.5kw and 2 rapid 52 kw chargers). An additional 32 charge points will be implemented in Spring 2019.

Residents, businesses and visitors can find the nearest electric vehicle charging point to them on publicly available websites including ZapMap <https://www.zap-map.com/>

**6. From: John Braithwaite  
To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Cleanliness**

What improvements has the council put in place with Veolia to ensure a more proportionate street sweeping scheme this year that avoids the massive build up leaves that was seen on some roads last year?

**Reply**

Our contract with Veolia provides for additional capacity to collect and dispose of leaves during the Autumn/early winter. This 'leafing season' runs for ten weeks starting at an agreed point between October and November and finishing in December/January. Exact dates are flexible due to the seasonal factors that can affect leaf fall. Given the relatively mild weather we are experiencing this year the programme has not yet commenced as we wait for more leaf fall before triggering the operation.

In addition to regular cleansing operations, additional autumn leaf clearance will be undertaken. Our leafing plan document lists those roads that historically have experienced heavy leaf fall or have been prone to flooding in adverse weather conditions. The plan allows for two visits across the ten week period by the leafing resource to each of the roads listed in the plan. The proposed leafing schedule is neither exclusive nor exhaustive and other locations will be cleared as required. All roads will continue to be cleansed on the normal cleansing schedule.

**7. From: Samantha MacArthur  
To the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance**

How much does My Merton cost to produce, including allocated staff time, and how much revenue does it generate?

**Reply**

My Merton is produced by the Council four times each year and distributed to all households in the borough. In the last residents' survey it was highlighted as the most popular way for local residents to keep informed about what's happening in Merton. The cost of producing each edition of My Merton, including costs for design, print, distribution and staff time, is £17k. This is offset by advertising income of £6k per edition, giving an overall cost to the Council of £11k per edition of the magazine, ie 12p per copy. A detailed breakdown of the costs of producing My Merton are published on the Council's website, please see: <https://news.merton.gov.uk/about-my-merton-magazine/>

**8. From: Tamara Kohler  
To the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health**

What is Merton council doing, either alone or in conjunction with the CCG, to improve on the childhood vaccination rates, currently the lowest in England?

**Reply**

To clarify the Merton and the London position on childhood immunisations, a large data issue has been identified across the whole of London recently. Due to a major change in the Child Health Information Systems (CHIS) that record the childhood immunisations data for London, migrating into 4 CHIS hubs, this has affected the accuracy of the reported data across London for 2017/18. NHS Digital who publishes the data have therefore put a caveat and asked that the data is treated with caution saying 'Local Authority (LA) COVER data in London has been provided by four newly-established CHIS hubs and as such reflect a system in transition. Changes in Local Authority coverage in the London region should be interpreted with caution.' Quarter 1 data has now been published for 2018/19 which shows some good uptake across some immunisations, however it still shows MMR 2nd dose and the pre-

school booster (Dtap/IPV Booster) for children aged 5 as being similar to the 2017/18 annual rates seen. We are working with NHS England, Merton CCG and partners to look at the approach around these particularly with the aim of putting any additional actions in place to improve the accuracy of the data as well as increasing take up.

Since April 2013, NHS England have been responsible for commissioning of all national immunisation programmes from local providers in line with agreed service specifications and hence are accountable for ensuring that the population are protected from vaccine preventable diseases. Local Authorities (through the Director of Public Health) have an oversight function to ensure plans are in place to protect their population, however do not commission any of these services.

The good news is that the annual childhood immunisations uptake has improved across all immunisations comparing 2013/14 (benchmark year) to 2017/18 with 2016/17 showing Merton having some of its highest immunisations rates. The 2016/17 rates are higher or similar to the London average. London has however historically lower vaccination rates than England.

Actions supporting improving childhood immunisations include:

- The Local Authority working with NHS England commissioners, Merton CCG and providers of immunisations through the Merton Immunisations Steering group which meets regularly with an action plan that is refreshed annually and data monitored quarterly.
- Childhood Immunisations is one of the 5 key outcomes under the Best Start in Life theme for the Health and Well-being Strategy (2015 – 2018). This keeps a focus on improving immunisations locally.
- Public Health promotion of childhood immunisations across the borough e.g. articles in My Merton (which is a publication that goes into every single home in Merton), Young Merton Together, Social media etc. Promotion of children's flu vaccinations through leaflets in all Libraries and Children's Centres
- Health Visiting services commissioned by LA are systematically (through universal health reviews) as well as opportunistically asking about the child's immunisations, promoting immunisations take up as well as signposting parents to their GP for their child to be immunised.

**9. From: Hannah Brown  
To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Cleanliness**

Will I ever receive the bins my council tax has paid for? (address supplied)

**Reply**

We are aware that not all domestic properties have received their new wheelie bins in advance of the service change in October. We are working with our contractor to

prioritise the delivery of new containers to the small number of dwellings that were unfortunately missed out of the initial delivery. I am pleased to confirm that Hannah Brown's bins have now been delivered.

**10. From: Sarah Potter  
To the Cabinet Member for Community and Culture**

The Adult Education Budget will be devolved to the Mayor of London from 2019/20. What steps has Merton Council taken to ensure the borough will be able to offer residents a range of courses in line with its commitment to an adult learning service set out in its commissioning principles?

**Reply**

Merton remains committed to providing a high quality and sustainable adult learning service and is achieving this through its commissioning model.

The London Borough of Merton has been working closely with the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and the Greater London Authority (GLA) on the devolution of adult skills budgets. The commissioning principles and the strategic objectives of Merton's adult learning service fit well with the Mayor's new 'Skills for Londoners' strategy and will enable Merton to continue to develop its provision to meet the needs of local residents.

In discussion with the Mayor's Office we anticipate that devolution in the first year will be fairly light touch and we have been working collaboratively with the South London Partnership to ensure the best fit for adult learning in the region going forward.

**11. From: Patrick Battersby  
To the Cabinet Member for Regeneration Housing and Transport**

Please advise what can be done to reduce Haydon Park Road becoming overrun by traffic. Most don't observe the speed limit. There are many vans and trucks. Most use it to turn left onto Haydon's Rd. Often you cannot enter the street from Haydon's Rd due to backed up traffic.

**Reply**

We take safety very seriously and we have an annual local safety programme. Rat running, perceived danger and excessive speed / volume of traffic are problems in a number of residential roads throughout the borough and regrettably due to insufficient funds and resource it is not possible to address them all.

Due to limited available resource and funding and the demand for action that outweigh the available funding, it is necessary to prioritise by giving first consideration to those areas with recorded personal injury accidents and areas outside schools and with high footfall. Engineering solutions are then considered to address accidents' contributory factors. According to our records over the past 3

years there has not been any speed related personal injury accidents in Haydon's Park Road and given that this road is already subject to a 20mph speed limit and traffic calmed it would make justifying any action extremely difficult. It should be noted that the existing traffic calming features are road humps which are the most effective traffic calming features permitted on the public highway.

With regards to speed this road is relatively narrow with parking on both sides and according to our latest speed data that were collected during 2014, average speed were found to be :

o/s 113 Haydon's Park Rd – 18 mph in one direction and 15 mph in the other

o/s 43 Haydon's Rd – 24 mph in one direction and 25 mph in the other – although this is higher than the speed limit of 20mph, it is not considered as excessive speed

Although there may be a perception of safety and no doubt there are those who may travel at higher speed, on average the speed is not considered as excessive. The Metropolitan Police is responsible for enforcement and as such speeding related concerns should be reported directly to the Police but as you may appreciate the resources are somewhat stretched dealing with other priorities. For locations with speed related issues TfL, in partnership with the Metropolitan Police undertakes many speed management initiatives, including Community Road Watch. Community Roadwatch is a road safety initiative which aims to reduce speeding in residential areas, and gives local residents the opportunity to work side by side with their local police teams, and use speed detection equipment to identify speeding vehicles in their communities. Concerns from members of the public on speeding, and other road offences, can be sent to Roadsafe London. This portal is an information and intelligence gathering tool that can inform police activity. The following link shows the address for the Roadsafe London website -

<http://content.met.police.uk/Site/roadsafelondon>

The Council does not deal with rat running issues; however, to address some of the complaints regarding rat running all the banned movements have been removed from Plough Lane / Haydon's Rd/ Durnsford Rd / Gap Road junction. With the banned movements removed, drivers are no longer compelled to use alternative routes. It is acknowledged that there is one sign that is yet to be removed and the Council is making the appropriate arrangements to rectify this oversight.

In response to HGVs using these roads, it should be noted that these roads are subject to a 7.5T lorry ban. However, they are permitted access and regrettably currently the Council is unable to undertake enforcement against HGVs. A solution would be the introduction of a width restriction, however, given the network of the roads in this area, one width restriction would have an impact on the surrounding roads. In recent years the Council has refrained from introducing such features as these impact on deliveries, emergency services and refuse vehicles.

As already mentioned given the volume of similar requests, limited available resources; other priorities and the fact that this area is subject to a 20mph speed limit and traffic calmed the Council will not be taking any action at this time.

**12. From: Nicola Thompson  
To the Cabinet Member for Regeneration Housing and Transport**

It is good news that planning enforcement is finally under way at No1 Caxton Road. When will step-free access to Haydons Road station (southbound platform) be implemented, making it accessible to those of limited mobility, as per condition No25 on the planning notice (10/P2827)?

**Reply**

A planning enforcement notice was served on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2018. The original planning permission facilitated step access to the station via the planning condition . However, this agreement relied on Network rail as land owner agreeing to the implementation of the proposal. To date such agreement has not been secured but the issue will be revisited alongside the recent enforcement action.

They have until the 18th November 2018 to make an appeal. The compliance period is Twelve calendar months.

The Enforcement Notice requires:

Either;

- (i) Demolish the Unauthorised Development; and
- (ii) Make good any damage arising for the compliance with step 5(i) above;  
and
- (iii) Remove from the Property all associated paraphernalia, surplus materials and debris arising for the compliance with step 5(i) above

Or:

- (iv) Implement the development (in its entirety) pursuant to the Planning Permission

**6. TIME FOR COMPLIANCE**

Twelve calendar months after this notice takes effect.

**7. WHEN THIS NOTICE TAKES EFFECT**

This notice takes effect on 18th November 2018 unless an appeal is made against it beforehand.



**13. From: Paul Rasmussen  
To the Cabinet Member for Regeneration Housing and Transport**

I would like to understand how Cappagh are able to ask for planning permission **again** when they have been caught breaking the law and rejected permission twice for very good reason? This is a waste of peoples time and energy and should be closed without opportunity to appeal.

**Reply**

There is a current licence application relating to a silo found on part of this site, this was found by council officers during an inspection and following a report made of a dust cloud by a resident and Councillor. It's important to note that this is not a planning application nor does this relate to the activities sought under the previous planning application.

**14. From: Thomas Shirley  
To the Cabinet Member for Regeneration Housing and Transport**

Despite ongoing concerns the council has taken no action to prevent the use of Caxton Road and linked 'poets roads' being used as a rat run to avoid congestion on Haydons road. What can residents do to help the council take this matter seriously?

**Reply**

Due to limited available funding and the demand for action that outweighs the available funding, it is necessary to prioritise by giving first consideration to those areas with recorded personal injury accidents and areas outside schools and with high footfall. The Council does not deal with rat running issues, any restriction of traffic movement would need to be justified; the impact of any restriction would need to be assessed and an area wide consultation would need to be carried out. As previously explained, we do not deal with rat running and there is no justification in prioritising any form of engineering intervention in this road compared to other areas in the borough. The Council will not be taking any action at this time.

**15. From: Barry Smith  
To the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance**

In each of the last 2 financial years, in how many cases did the council use court summons, bailiffs or charge collection costs to residents for non-payment of council tax?

**Reply**

2017/18 – 9,289 summonses issued and 6,786 enforcement (bailiff) cases

2018/19 – 7,977 summonses issued and 3,780 enforcement (bailiff) cases (as at 13 November 18)

**16. From: Klaartje Dresselaers  
To the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance**

To what extent has the 76% decrease in spending on Local Welfare Assistance Schemes in Merton between 2012/13 and 2016/17 been the result of the council changing eligibility criteria for assistance, and what is the difference in the number of families receiving assistance from LWAS between these years?

**Reply**

The eligibility criteria have had only some small changes to it since it was first introduced. The reason for the decrease in spending is due to a reduction in applications. In 2014/15, when we spent the most, we received 636 applications and last year, 2017/18 we received 337 applications.

**17. From: Jill Hall  
To the Cabinet Member for Regeneration Housing and Transport**

What consideration has Merton Developments given to adopting PassivHaus energy standard for homes it intends to build in the future?

**Reply**

Merantun Development Ltd will be considering the most suitable range of sustainability measures and building regulations spec for the sites and the build product. This will be done as part of the pre-planning design process which has just been tendered.

**18. From: John Tippett-Cooper  
To the Cabinet Member for Children's Services**

What is the council doing to ensure that the 45% of residents eligible for free childcare for 2 year olds who are not currently taking up this entitlement are fully aware of their rights?

**Reply**

Staff within the Early Years and Children's Centre Service are working continuously to identify and support the 45% of parents who are eligible for free childcare, who are not taking up their provision.

Every 8 weeks or so, the department receives lists of families who may be eligible and these families are contacted in a variety of ways:

- Direct communications to families– differentiated messaging according to parental circumstance
- Face to face contact for families who have not taken up their entitlement (Staff from the Childcare Engagement team are tasked with contacting those families on the lists of eligible families, and are expected to make contact to explain the offer to parents and encourage take up)

- Follow up contact with families
- Promotion in community buildings
- Promotion via multi agency partners
- Promotion via articles ie My Merton
- Information on the Family Service Directory
- Social Media – Twitter and Facebook

Whilst there is significant activity, we are aware that some families choose not to take up their funded place, and key findings in research carried out by the DfE and the Greater London Assembly identified that is lower take up in areas where, for example, there are high number of EAL and some families from specific cultural and religious backgrounds may prefer to spend time at home with their children.

**19. From: Ingrid Dickenson  
To the Cabinet Member for Regeneration Housing and Transport**

WHY has Merton Council not yet fined Cappagh at Waterside Way for their 'illegal' release of toxic cement dust on the Riverwalk although the incident was filmed and witnessed by a Merton Councillor but instead accepted a Part B permit application to legalise their previously illegal action?

**Reply**

The Council must act lawfully in dealing with such issues. Officers did consider formal action against the site for not having a permit for a silo, however the incident that occurred could not be linked to this particular silo. This was located in a completely separate part of the site and was found following a thorough inspection. This IS the reason for this permit application. Officers did carefully review the evidence provided against the powers that we have available. The only powers we currently have to control dust on the site would be under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 Section79, with this legislation there is an escalating approach to enforcement and there needs to be an impact on property or residents.

This kind of action is also reliant on issuing legal notices and then proving contraventions to take prosecution action. In determining action under nuisance legislation we also need to show that this is a regular occurrence. That said we have written to the site operator reiterating their need to comply with this legislation.

We do have a duty to consider Licence Applications of this nature and we have levied an additional fee on the Application due to the fact that we found a silo on site which was not permitted, something we are entitled to do.

**20. From: Shipra Gupta  
To the Cabinet Member for Education**

How much has the Council spent on legal advice to school governors in the current financial year and the last financial year (including costs re charged to schools)?

## **Reply**

The council has not incurred any expenditure on advice to school governors in the current financial year or the last financial year. Legal advice to schools is paid for by the schools except in very exceptional circumstances. The total cost of legal advice commissioned by schools under the Merton Schools Service Level Agreement and funded by the school governing body was £21,456.60 (26 cases) in the financial year 2017/2018 and £11,365.20 (21 cases) in the current financial year to date.

In employment tribunal cases where the council and a school are co-respondents, the council and the relevant school have agreed to share the cost of legal advice and representation. In the financial years 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 there have been a total of 3 fee sharing arrangements in respect of 3 cases (these 3 cases have all been active matters across both of the financial years in question). The costs of the schools' legal advice under the fee sharing arrangements are contained within the above figures. The above figures for the number of cases in each financial year include the 3 cases where there has been fee sharing.

### **21. From: Siobhan Wilson To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Cleanliness**

What are you going to be doing about all the uncollected rubbish everywhere? The area looks worse now than before the bins were brought in.

## **Reply**

We are currently bedding in the new service and am pleased with how well our residents have embraced the service change and adopted to the new containerised system. Monitoring and inspections, together with reports from residents and Members, indicate that the standard of street cleanliness in the town centres has improved since the new service was introduced. We are also recording increased levels of recycling. Residential streets are also looking better but there are some pockets where concern remains. These streets are under close monitoring and the focus of attention for the NCO team. Veolia are responding well to these concerns.

### **22. From: Emily Robertson To the Cabinet Member for Regeneration Housing and Transport**

Given that the Child Poverty Action Group reports that Merton has failed to achieve even half of its affordable housing target (19% against a target of 40%), what action is the Council taking that will help it meet the 40% target?

## **Reply**

The construction of affordable homes varies year-on-year and is reported each year in the council's Authority Monitoring Report. Between 2010 and 2017 30% of the new homes built in Merton were affordable. During the same seven years 38% of the total

number of homes built in Merton were a result of “prior approval” conversions from offices, shops or storage to residential and government rules require these homes, and any homes built on small sites, to be exempt from providing any contribution to affordable housing. The council is working with registered housing providers and housebuilders to optimise the delivery of affordable homes by allocating sites for development, by requiring the publication and independent review of developer’s viability assessments and by developing a new Local Plan and housing strategy towards the delivery of more affordable homes.

**23. From: Maria Daskalaki**  
**To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Cleanliness**

What are you going to do with bins that are NOT “unreturned”, but don’t fit in gardens, simply not big enough to accommodate them so they are left outside blocking access? remove all these bins from properties & grant access to shared large ones, emptied every day!

**Reply**

We recognise that not all houses will have space to accommodate bins and where this is not possible we arrange alternative waste collection methods.

The new service provides for bins to be presented to the curtilage of the dwelling. This is to ensure that our pavements are kept clear of refuse containers restricting access for pushchair / wheelchair users. This requires householders to set out waste bins within the confines of their land as close to the edge as possible.

As part of the roll out of the new service a subcontractor was engaged to undertake a borough wide delivery of the new wheelie bins. We continue to work closely with the main contractor to undertake specific re-assessments of households in locations where we have been advised that the new bins are not suitable due to lack of storage space on the property. Our priority at present is to complete these reassessments and then where applicable arrange for all excess bins to be removed. We envisage that all excess bins will be collected by the end of the month.

Residents are able to share bins if the wish, however the frequency of collection will be retained as scheduled.

**24. From: Eve Cohen**  
**To the Cabinet Member for Community and Culture**

How many dog poo bins have been removed from Merton Borough over what timescale, and how many dog poo bins remain?

**Reply**

Following changes in legislation that allowed for the co-collection of dog waste along with the general street litter it was agreed to remove the designated dog waste bins. All bins were removed and therefore we no longer provide any dog waste bins in our streets or parks.

As part of this decision we have promoted the use of general litter bins for the disposal of dog waste.

In addition, any location where a dog waste bin was removed, we have ensured that either an existing bin was nearby or a new litter bin was installed.

**25. From: Daniel Weir  
To the Cabinet Member for Community and Culture**

How and why was the decision made to drastically cut the Rowan Park community centre space (which should have opened 5 years ago) recently. It is part of a section 106 and we have had previous reassurances/emails from the council that this would not happen.

**Reply**

The council welcomes the delivery of a new health centre, pharmacy and community space at Rowan Park. Funding has been approved by Merton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to undertake the development of the health centre and pharmacy and this means that the community space, which forms part of the same building, can now progress.

The council is aware that the cost of delivering the facilities has increased but we have not received a formal request to reduce the community space. We continue to work with Merton CCG and Crest Nicholson homes to determine the most viable route to ensure that these much needed facilities are delivered as soon as possible.

**26. From: Marie Davinson  
To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Cleanliness**

Who is responsible for 'local recycling centres' such as the one in the car park adjoining the Civic Centre car park? When will these 'recycling centres' have separate containers for paper/card from other mixed recycling in line with the new waste service introduced in October?

**Reply**

The local recycling centres are managed by the Council and are collected on our behalf by our waste collections contractor, Veolia.

There are currently no plans to introduce a separate paper and card service at these locations as residents can dispose of this material separately as part of the new kerbside collection. We aim to review the provision of these neighbourhood recycling centres over the next few months as many are a magnet for fly tipping and offer only limited benefit in terms of recycling.

Any excess paper and card can be taken to our Civic Amenity site at Garth Road.

**27. From: Ursula Faulkner  
To the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance**

How much of LWAS (Local Welfare Assistance Schemes) assistance is provided in the form of cash and how much is provided in loans or vouchers?

**Reply**

2017/18

Emergency cash - £17,825

Essential household items purchased - £21,657

2018/19 (as at 13 November 2018)

Emergency cash - £6,305

Essential household items purchased - £9,715

No loans or vouchers are given

**28. From: Gemma Anderson  
To the Cabinet Member for Regeneration Housing and Transport**

Why did Merton commission a vehicle speed survey on Haydon Park Road in June 2018? and why were the results not made public?

**Reply**

The Council is not aware of any traffic surveys being undertaken in this road during 2018. Please note that although companies should seek the Council's approval for undertaking surveys, more often than not they do not. It could be that surveys were done without our knowledge.

**29. From: Sarah Warren  
To the Cabinet Member for Regeneration Housing and Transport**

What are Merton's plans to address the results from the vehicle speed survey conducted in Haydon Park Road in June 2018 which recorded persistent and excessive speeds and hgv use in a designated 20mph zone?

**Reply**

The Council is not aware of any traffic surveys being undertaken in this road during 2018.

**30. From: Mark Blacker**  
**To the Cabinet Member for Regeneration Housing and Transport**

In December 2016, Merton confirmed the banned movements at the Gap Road/Plough Lane Junction would be removed. This statement has been repeated again in 2017 and 2018. Today signage still has not been changed to remove the banned movements remain. Do Merton intend to do anything?

**Reply**

This was due to an oversight. Arrangements have been made to cover the banned movement by a sticker (over the next couple of weeks) until a new sign is manufactured and erected within the next 6 weeks.

**31. From: Philip Whiteside**  
**To the Cabinet Member for Community and Culture**

When is the Council going to stop allowing motorbikes to use the tennis courts in Haydons Road Recreation Ground so the space can be converted back to a MUGA?

**Reply**

The Council has no current plans to deny the motor cycle training school, Advantage Wimbledon, from hiring the MUGA at Haydon's Road Recreation Ground.

This locally-based educational enterprise has operated successfully at this site for more than 12 years and operates at times when the demands for other casual and hires for sporting and recreational purposes are very low. Indeed, the low demands and extremely low levels of income generated at this site from organised sport were historically the reason why the school was located at this convenient and accessible venue as long ago as 2007.

Advantage Wimbledon has not expressed any desire to re-locate from the venue where it operates within a discrete area of the park and with only minimal disruption to other activities that take place there, activities that include children's play, lacrosse, cricket and bowls.

The partnership that the school has established with the Council over many years, and under different administrations, has been mutually beneficial and productive. From a parks operational perspective, the benefits have included enhanced site security and significant levels of income annually that support the borough's green space management service overall.

Whilst we have explored alternate locations none suitable have been identified and as such we have no current plans for this use to be re-located .



**32. From: Emma Maddison  
To the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health**

What is the current progress on the redevelopment of the Wilson health centre, will it be delivered on time and on budget and has the alternative provisions for walk-in services proved sufficient to meet demand?

**Reply**

The redevelopment of the Wilson Hospital is an NHS project, led by the Clinical Commissioning Group, on NHS Property Land. Merton Council has been supporting the project with a view to creating a holistic health and wellbeing campus, however, the Council has no control over the timescales, budget or delivery of the scheme.

The CCG has recently reported funding problems, following a shift in Government policy concerning interest rate rises. The Council understands that the CCG is exploring alternative funding options.

The decision to close the walk-in centre was taken by the CCG; the Council had no say in it and was not consulted on it. Questions about alternative provision should be directed to the CCG.

**33. From: Richard Hackforth-Jones  
To the Cabinet Member for Children's Services**

Does Merton allow residents living close to the border with other boroughs to split their 40 hours childcare allowance between settings in different boroughs? If not, why not?

**Reply**

Yes, Merton operates the 30 hour childcare scheme in accordance with the DfE statutory guidance June 2018 . This allows a parent to use a maximum of 2 sites in a single day, which includes using settings across different boroughs.

**34. From: Somayeh Aghnianejad  
To the Cabinet Member for Education**

How much has the Council spent on legal advice to school governors in the current financial year and the last financial year (including costs recharged to schools)?

**Reply**

The council has not incurred any expenditure on advice to school governors in the current financial year or the last financial year. Legal advice to schools is paid for by the schools except in very exceptional circumstances. The total cost of legal advice commissioned by schools under the Merton Schools Service Level Agreement and

funded by the school governing body was £21,456.60 (26 cases) in the financial year 2017/2018 and £11,365.20 (21 cases) in the current financial year to date.

In employment tribunal cases where the council and a school are co-respondents, the council and the relevant school have agreed to share the cost of legal advice and representation. In the financial years 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 there have been a total of 3 fee sharing arrangements in respect of 3 cases (these 3 cases have all been active matters across both of the financial years in question). The costs of the schools' legal advice under the fee sharing arrangements are contained within the above figures. The above figures for the number of cases in each financial year include the 3 cases where there has been fee sharing.

**35. From: Rudi Leoni  
To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Cleanliness**

Veolia continues to fail to meet contractual standards for flytips and street cleaning despite logging numerous reports over consecutive days. What is the root cause of Veolia's failure to resolve issues consistently and within contractual deadlines and when will alternative arrangements be made with costs recovered from Veolia?

**Reply**

The standard of service delivered at times has been below the level expected. There have been a number of contributory factors to this, including significant changes to the service in some areas particularly waste collection and issues with data transfer between IT systems held by all parties. This latter issue in particular meant that performance measurement against specific performance indicators has not been consistently achieved.

With reference to recovering cost, our aim is to ensure that we have the required performance standards as agreed in the contract. To achieve this, we are working closely with Veolia alongside our SLWP partner boroughs to ensure the contract performance is raised.

There are no current plans to make alternative arrangements to Veolia. I can confirm that the partnership does exercise the contract clauses that allow for financial deductions.