

RAYNES PARK COMMUNITY FORUM
26 MARCH 2019

(7.15 pm - 9.00 pm)

PRESENT Councillors Councillor Omar Bush (in the Chair),

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (Agenda Item 1)

The meeting was held in Raynes Park Library Hall, and chaired by Councillor Omar Bush, with Chris Larkman from the Raynes Park Association (RPA). More than 50 residents attended, as well as six other Merton Councillors, and officers from the council and its partners. in Raynes Park Library Hall, and chaired by Councillor Omar Bush, with Chris Larkman from the Raynes Park Association (RPA). More than 50 residents attended, as well as six other Merton Councillors, and officers from the council and its partners.

2 OPEN FORUM (Agenda Item 2)

Morley Park

Councillor Nick Draper, Cabinet Member for Community and Culture, provided an update on Morley Park. Having had a difficult time negotiating with the developer Berkeley Homes, Cllr Draper said that the lease agreement had been reached with a £1million endowment so that Berkeley Homes would remain responsible for any reoccurrence of Japanese Knotweed. As a result, the park would be able to open in the next few weeks, with Ursuline School able to use the playing fields after their Governors have agreed the contract with the Council. A formal opening ceremony will then take place in May.

In response to questions from residents Cllr Draper said that the park should be open to the public before the official opening but the details of the event have yet to be planned in detail. Cllr Draper explained that the footway through the park would be a public right of way but the park would be closed at night. Diane Hodson from Friends of Morley Park asked if the sloping path would be made more accessible. Cllr Draper said there would not be any more work to the path as the area will be left to meadow. Access to the area will be from the other side of the park and the advantage of keeping a circular path is that it is more dementia friendly. A resident also asked about the visibility of the blocks of flats with trees having been removed, Cllr Draper said he would need to check but some areas are still to be planted.

My Raynes Park Festival

Tom Underwood said that the programme for the summer festival has been finalised and is being printed. The festival will run from 28 June to 7 July and will include comedy, poetry, art, music and films, culminating with the Lark in the Park picnic on 7 July in Holland Gardens. Details will be available from <http://www.myraynespark.co.uk/>

Merton Citizens

Tom also provided an update on Merton Citizens, that brings together 21 local organisations and faith groups. The priorities for the group are housing, mental health, and refugee welcome.

Sexual Health Strategy

Clare Gummatt said that Merton Council's Public Health Team was working with Merton Clinical Commissioning Group to create a new Sexual Strategy that would inform future commissioning. There is a consultation open until 22 April which can be found at www.merton.gov.uk/consultations.

Age UK Planning for the Future Event

Clare also said that Age UK would be holding a Planning for the Future Event on 10 April from 4-8pm in Wimbledon Library.

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/merton/about-us/news/articles/2019/planning-for-the-future-with-age-uk-merton/>

Details of all the other activities run by Age UK Merton are also available from their website <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/merton/>

Chris Larkman said that the Apostle's Residents Association had asked Merton Council to plant additional trees, that the Association would pay for as they have in the past, but was told Merton Council would not be willing to meet ongoing maintenance costs.

3 LONDON ASSEMBLY UPDATE (Agenda Item 3)

Leonie Cooper, Assembly Member for Merton and Wandsworth, provided an update on the work of the Assembly in holding the Mayor of London to account. Since her last visit to Raynes Park the Assembly has agreed Environment, Transport, and Knife Crime strategies. The London Plan is currently being examined in public by the Planning Inspectorate. The London Plan covers issues such as green spaces, building heights, tree planting and waste recycling as well as using Transport for London land to transform areas like Morden. Once approved by Inspectors the Plan would be enforced.

The new Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ), will come into effect on 8 April. It will cover the same areas as the Congestion Charge but will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To find out if your vehicle would be subject to the additional charge go to <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/ultra-low-emission-zone/vrm-checker-ulez>.

In response to questions from residents Leonie said the start of Crossrail 2 were certainly receding and it would be unlikely to see a Hybrid Bill in 2019. It is possible the Crossrail will need to be completed first and that has been delayed. Leonie was asked if the Mayor of London could call-in planning permission granted by Merton Council on Metropolitan Open Land, and replied that the Mayor can only call-in certain types of applications so would need to check on the detail if it could be emailed to leonie.cooper@london.gov.uk.

A resident asked what was being done to hold the Mayor to account over knife crime. Leonie responded that knife and violent crime was a national issue not just a London one but in London the Assembly has been challenging the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor Sophie Lindon; the Commissioner Cressida Dick; and Borough Commanders. There has been some improvement in 2019 compared to 2018 but there is still a lot more to do to resolve long term issues like cuts to local youth services. The Mayor has created a Violence Reduction Unit and has increased the Council Tax precept in order to invest in more officers. A resident asked if the Assembly was pressuring the Government to reserve cuts to police funding. Leonie said the Assembly agreed that police cuts have gone too far, especially in London which has unique costs like Royal Protection and counter terrorism. There are different views across the Assembly about the role of Stop and Search but it is usually most effective when intelligence led. In some case the Met has been using Section 60 powers to increase stop and search in a small area, such as Figges Marsh, for a time-limited period.

Leonie explained that while Councils can pay for additional officers they can't pay for additional PCSO as the Met is not keen to lose flexibility over deployment. On Wimbledon Police Station Leonie said the review of the decision following the Judicial Review of the consultation was not yet completed so there is not a final decision as yet.

4 PROPOSED RESIDENT'S PARKING CHARGE INCREASES AND RP CENTRE 20 MINUTE FREE PARKING. (Agenda Item 4)

Cath James, Ben Stephens and Mike Robinson from Merton Council gave a presentation on the proposed changes to charges for parking in car parks, on-street bays and controlled parking zones (CPZs). The presentation can be found as an appendix to this report.

The consultation is open from 29 March until 5 May and can be found at <https://www.merton.gov.uk/streets-parking-transport/parking/charges-consultation-2019>

Not part of the consultation is the option of emissions charging or the review of the diesel levy which will be considered by Cabinet in the autumn. The results from the consultation will be reported to Cabinet in the summer.

Residents raised a number of comments in relation to the proposals including:

- The charges are unfair as they only cover CPZs so won't affect those with driveways or outside the zones
- The resident permit charge was to cover administration of the zone so this breaks with this relationship
- The increase in Pay and Display charges will impact on local businesses
- There is no evidence that increasing charges will reduce use of cars
- The large increases are hard on those who cannot afford this
- There has been insufficient notice given of the consultation
- Pollution is caused by other kinds of vehicles, not residents parked cars
- This will encourage more people to concrete over their front gardens and install crossovers, which is bad for the environment

- There is a big life expectancy gap between the East and the West of Merton and yet the biggest increase in charges in are in the West where life expectancy is higher.
- Emissions based charging would be fairer

Ben explained that in addition to on-street posters the consultation was also featured in My Merton, would be in the Wimbledon Times, and would be promoted on social media.

Councillor Martin Whelton, Cabinet Member Regeneration, Housing and Transport, said that parking is not the only action the Council is taking on air pollution but is an important lever. He had heard the views expressed tonight and encouraged residents to respond to the consultation.

5 STREET CLEANING, RUBBISH & RECYCLING COLLECTIONS (Agenda Item 5)

Councillor Mike Brunt, Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Cleanliness, provided an update on the new waste collection service. Cllr Brunt said it had been a difficult roll out with 10% of households not receiving the new bins in time for the new service and some having to wait five months for their bins. This was not acceptable and Cllr Brunt apologised for this. This has been the biggest change in Merton's waste collection but was already starting to see some positive results. Food recycling has increased by 160,000 tonnes per months, garden waste subscriptions are up by 20% and there has been a drop in the waste going to the Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) of 330,000 tonnes per month. The number of assisted collections has also doubled. The target was to see 45% of waste recycled in 2018/19 and we are on target for that.

There is still a challenge in getting the contractors crews to use the system properly, stopping them lifting refuse out of the bins and risking spills. Missed collections are still too high but are coming down from 717 per week in November to 360 per week in March. Merton is recruiting three extra street inspectors to monitor the contract performance. Plastic waste does not have any value in recycling but it is cheaper to recycle than feed into the ERF. The Council is keen to work with Government to see plastic usage reduce.

Fly-tipping is still an issue but action is being taken. The Council has just taken eight people to court and fined them £1300 as well as crushing three vehicles used for fly-tipping. We will be looking to increase enforcement, name and shame more offenders and will be launching a 'We are watching you' campaign.

In response to questions from residents Cllr Brunt said that the ERF visitor centre will be open later this year. Services for flats above shops will be reviewed and there have been problems with recycling for small blocks of flats. Residents can request additional recycling boxes if needed and all new boxes should come with a lid. Unfortunately, the Council cannot clear fly-tips on private land without permission but is happy to support Alleygates if that would help residents keep their land clear. Street cleaning is based on monitoring output targets and Merton will be increasing the number of inspectors to monitor performance. With autumn leaf fall there is a 10-

week window to clear up the fall so timing is critical, this year sucker machines were introduced to speed up the process.

6 TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENTS & RAILWAY (Agenda Item 6)

Chris Larkman provided an update. Network Rail are clearing the bank on the north side of the station and hopefully the land transfer on the south side will go ahead shortly. The poor fencing and the poor SW trains service have also been raised. It is important to keep the pressure on NR.

The cycle route to New Malden should open in the next few months.

7 RAYNES PARK PLANNING MATTERS (Agenda Item 7)

Neil Milligan was unable to attend the meeting so Chris Larkman and Cllr Fairclough provided an update instead. New plans on the Manoplastics site have been submitted following consultation, increasing the number of units from 99 to 125. The developer plans to start on site in 2020 even if they cannot get the changes approved. The development on the Bushey Road Tesco site is going ahead. Southey Bowling Club have applied for an extended License, 12.30am on Friday and 1am on Saturday, and comments need to be submitted by 2 April. A pedestrian crossing on Martin Way will be installed in April.

8 FEEDBACK, REMINDERS & UPDATES (Agenda Item 8)

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING (Agenda Item 9)

Councillor Bush thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting

Dates of future meetings: All at 7.15pm in the Library Hall

Thursday 13 June 2019 Cllr Anthony Fairclough

Thursday 19 September 2019 Cllr Eloise Bailey

Thursday 5 December 2019 Cllr Pauline Cowper

Tuesday 31 March 2020 Cllr Adam Bush

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Public health, air quality and sustainable transport a strategic approach to parking charges

Community Forum Consultation

April 2019

This evening :

- What is being proposed
- Why is it being proposed
- Where to find our more and have your say

What is **not** being proposed in this consultation

- Changes to 20 Minutes free parking
- Changes in the diesel levy
- Emissions based charging

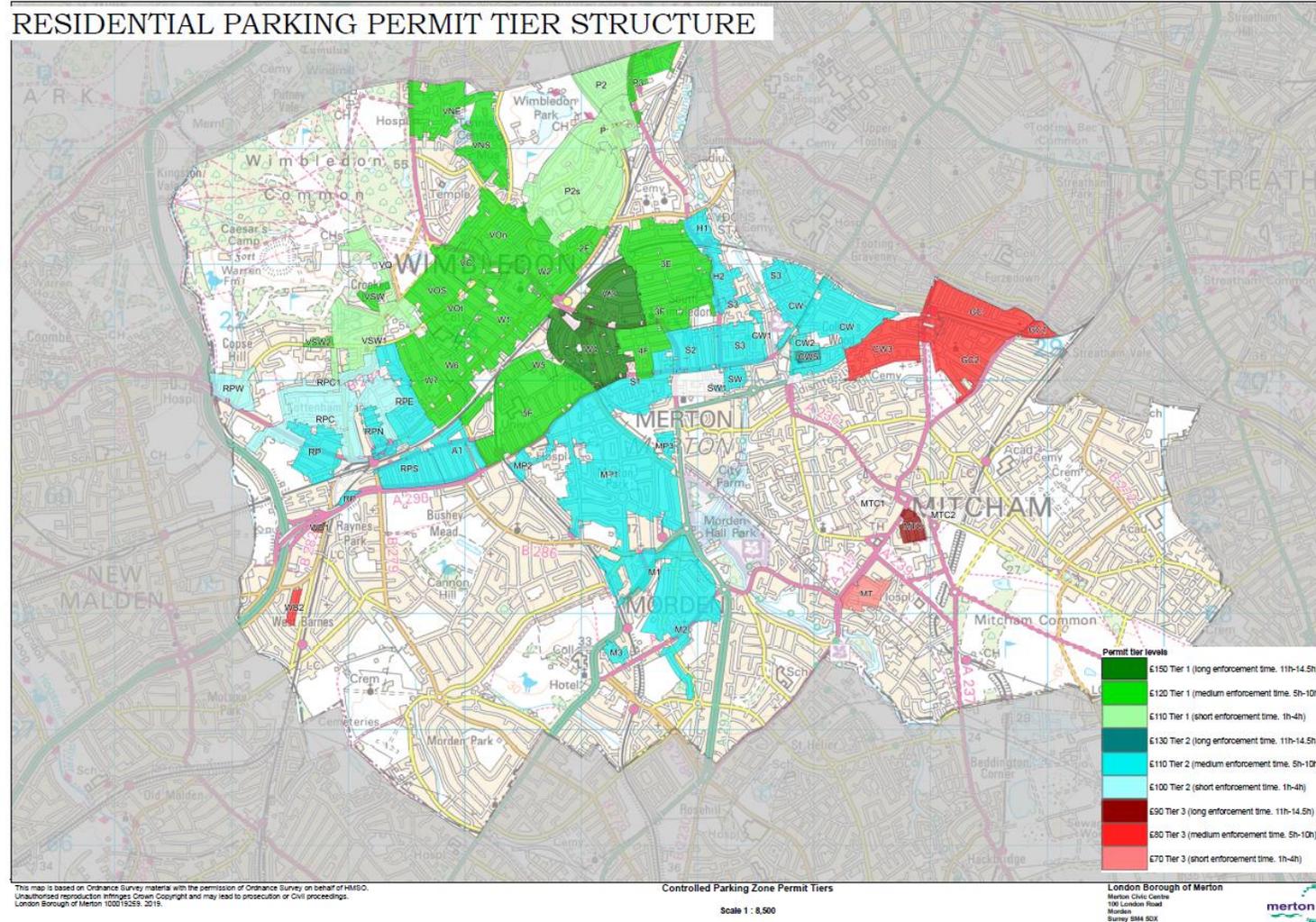
What is being proposed

- The Council is consulting on parking charges until **5th May 2019**
- This includes :
 - Charges in council owned car parks
 - *Pay and Display* charges 'on street'
 - Resident and visitor permit charges in Controlled Parking Zones
- It is proposed that charges will increase but there will continue to be incentives and lower charges for electric vehicles

What is being proposed

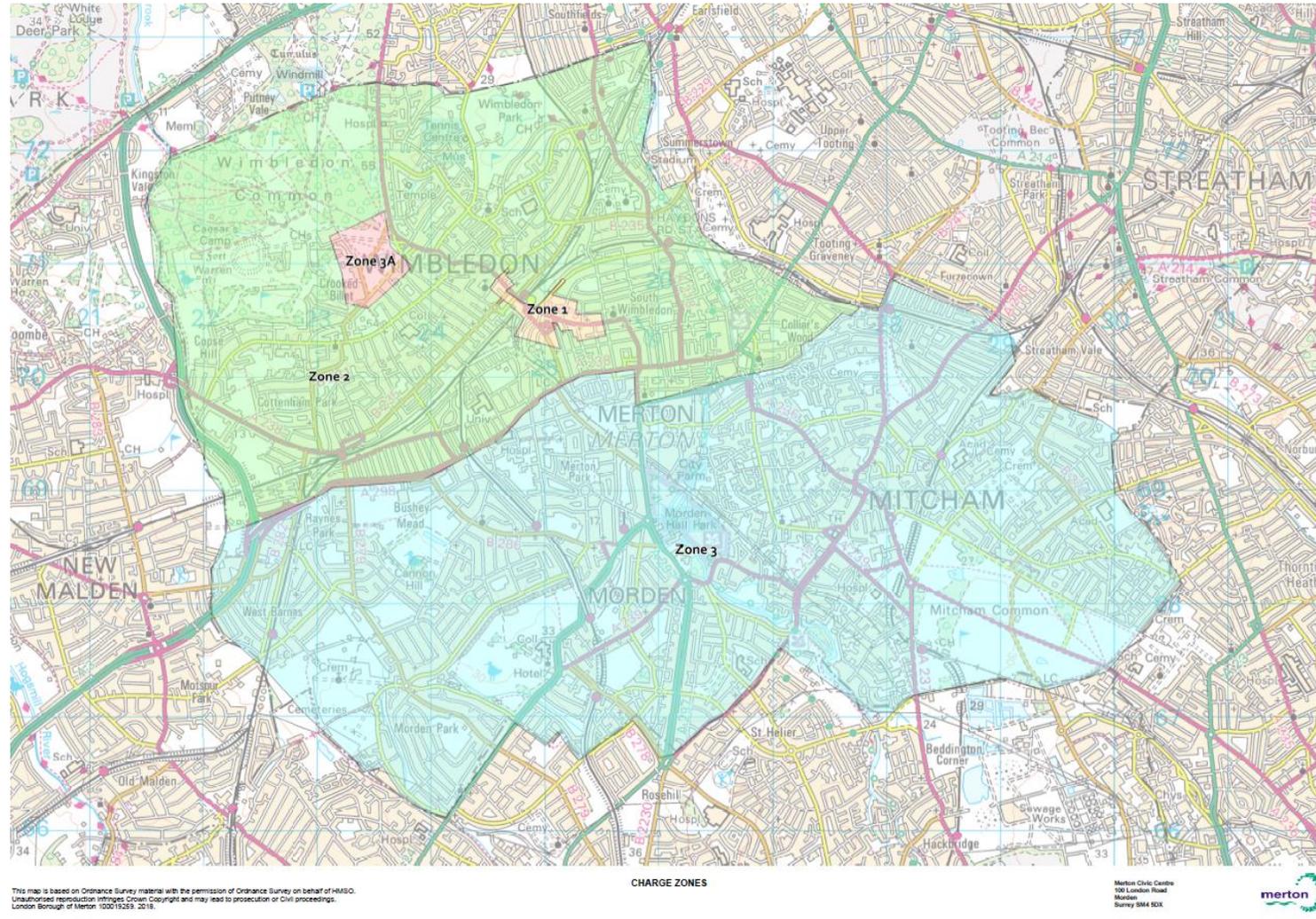
- **A charging system that :**
- Is fair and proportionate recognising that there are parts of the borough that are better served by public transport;
- Reflects the resources to enforce Controlled Parking Zones that have longer operating hours;
- Encourages active transport [walking and cycling] as well as public transport
- Is representative of, Mayors Transport policy, other council policy such as Air Quality and compliments surrounding boroughs similar sustainable transport endeavours.

Controlled Parking Zone Tier Structure



Pay and Display Charging Structure

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Why is this being proposed ?

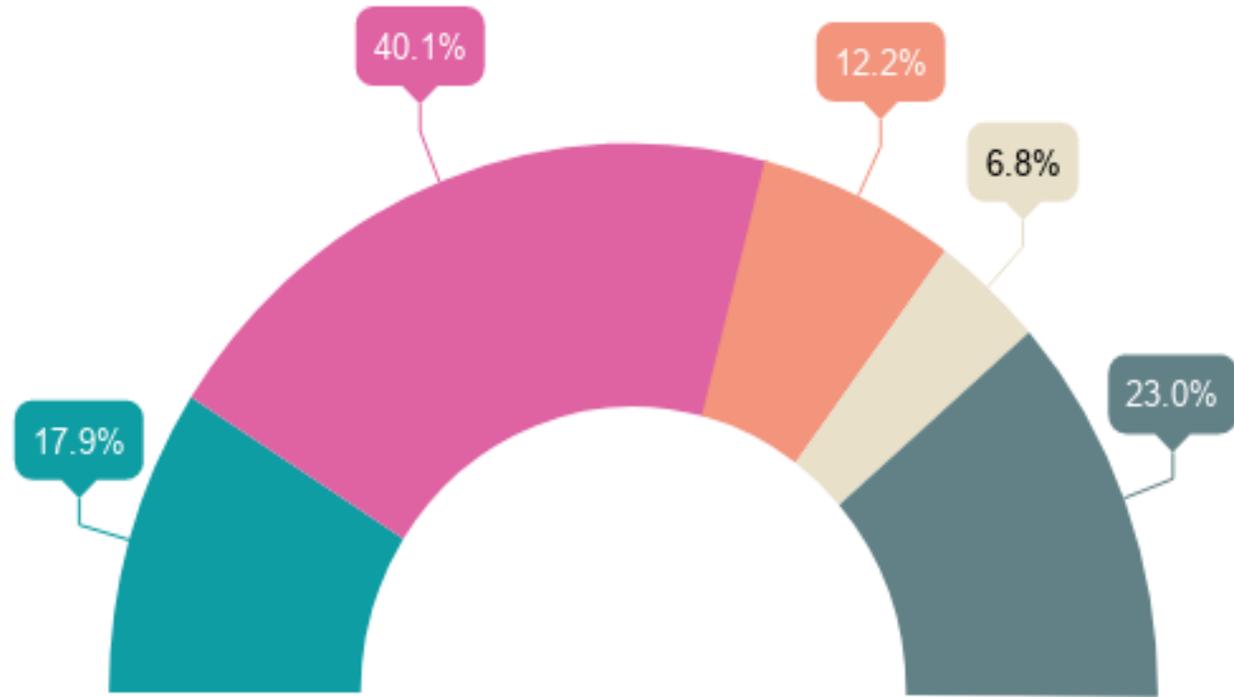
- Incentive for less car use, meaning fewer trips by car
 - Over one third of all the car trips made by London residents could be walked in up to 25 minutes
- Less car use meaning less vehicle emissions and less **air pollution**:
 - The **main source of air pollution** is from the vehicles on our roads.
 - An estimated **9,000 deaths a year in London** are attributable to the air pollution.
 - Other **health problems** are caused or worsened eg heart disease, dementia.
 - Most people with asthma say that **poor air quality makes asthma worse**.
 - 60% of children and young people in Merton, say air quality is a 'problem', 'big problem', or 'very big problem'.

Why is this being proposed ?

- Less car use means **more physical activity** through use of public transport, walking or cycling.
 - More physical activity lessens the obesity epidemic. **150 primary school classes of Merton children** are overweight.
 - Almost **60% of Merton adults** are overweight.
 - Diabetes and other long term health conditions linked to obesity will get worse.
- Less car use is **good for the economy and for business** as the efficiency of freight and commercial journeys improves
- **There isn't one single solution.** Increasing parking charges is part of the solution at local level
- Most car charges have not increased since 2009

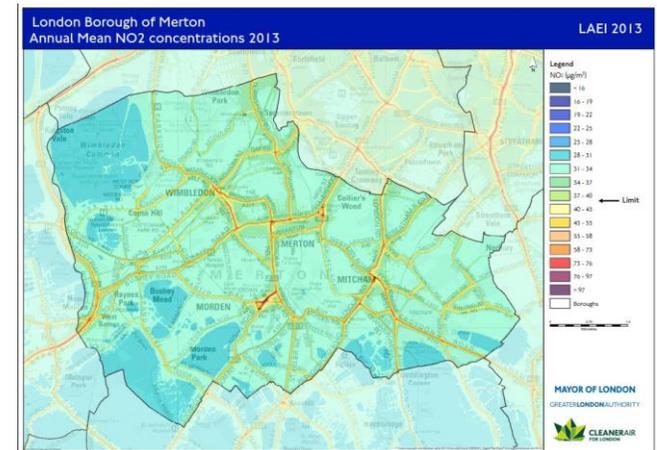


Children and young people in Merton care about air quality:



- No problem at all
- A problem
- A big problem
- A very big problem
- Don't Know

Question 24.0
How much of a problem is the cleanliness of the air in my area?
This single response question was answered by 1,174 respondents.



Where can I find out more?

More information

- A copy of the proposed Order and other documents giving more detailed particulars of the Order, including the Council's statement of reasons and plans can be inspected Monday to Friday during normal office hours at:
 - Merton Link, Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden, Surrey.
- Further information can be viewed on the Council's website at: www.merton.gov.uk/parkingconsultation2019 and at all Merton operated libraries.

Public Notices on street & in the local press.

- The Council has placed a minimum of 6 Notices per street in each CPZ zone.
- A notice has been attached to each Pay and display machine, both on street and in or car parks.
- A Notice has been published in the Local Newspaper
- MyMerton has a feature article, (delivered to all residents)

How can I support or make representation on this proposal?

We welcome your comments

Any person wishing to make representation or object on the proposals should visit:

www.merton.gov.uk/parkingconsultation2019

We have an online survey and opportunity to submit representations

or

In writing to Parking Services, the London Borough of Merton, Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 5DX quoting reference **Parking Consultation 2019** or by email to parkingconsultation2019@merton.gov.uk, no later than **5 May 2019**.

Thank you