

## NOTICE OF MOTION

This Council notes that:

- According to the latest Annual Residents' Survey, feeling safe in your local area is by far the most important factor for the health and wellbeing of residents in Merton;
- Over half of residents (52%) feel that this could be improved;
- Satisfaction with how the area looks is also an important factor for health and wellbeing with around one third of local people feeling this could be improved;
- 44% of residents remain concerned about anti-social behaviour in the borough and 41% about people being drunk and rowdy; and
- The majority (64%) of violent crime in the UK occurs in the evening or at night and one fifth of all violent incidents take place in or around a pub or club.

This Council recognises that Merton has a vibrant night time economy with a wide range of restaurants, theatres and bars, which attract many visitors to the borough as well as encouraging residents to support local businesses in town centres and local parades. Whilst the majority of licensed premises behave in a responsible manner and with due respect to their neighbours, there are however on going issues with anti-social behaviour, noise nuisance and littering, often connected to binge drinking and exacerbated by the proliferation of ever later licences permitted under the previous government's 24-hour licensing laws.

This Council believes that Merton's residents deserve to live in peace in their own homes; that residents and visitors all deserve a safe and clean environment, in which to enjoy an evening out in the borough; and that the Council has a responsibility, in conjunction with the police, to tackle the problem of alcohol fuelled crime and anti-social behaviour where it blights the lives of local communities.

This Council therefore welcomes the new powers introduced by the government as part of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act to enable local communities to tackle this anti-social behaviour by making it easier for the police and councils to deal with pubs, clubs and bars which contribute to the problems of late night drinking.

This Council commits to delivering a better balance in future between the thriving night time economy in Merton and the need for all licensed premises to respect their neighbours by ensuring that alcohol-related problems, including anti-social behaviour, littering and noise, are properly addressed. As such, this Council resolves to call on the administration to:

- a) Clamp down on any licensed premises which break the terms of their licences through firmer enforcement of the rules;
- b) Make use of the new powers available from the government to stop the proliferation of ever later opening times and the nuisance of late alcohol licences;
- c) Increase litter enforcement in Merton by employing more staff to catch and prosecute those who blight our communities, including late at night outside bars and clubs; and
- d) Introduce an all year round noise pollution enforcement service to provide reassurance and comfort to residents whose sleep is disturbed by inconsiderate neighbours.

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