

## COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 9 JULY 2014

### CONSERVATIVE MOTION - STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE – SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES WITH A FOCUS ON STREET SCENE

The Council's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan states in the introduction that “it is vital that we take action to...preserve a quality of life for subsequent generations.”

Yet, Labour's political leadership has no genuine plans to improve the environment in this borough.

This Council notes that the most recent Annual Residents Survey revealed that:

- For the first time since 1995 when these records began, litter/dirt on Merton's streets is respondents' top concern with a 6% increase in residents saying it is a problem compared to 2012, which is significantly higher than the London average.
- Only 43% of residents in Wimbledon town centre and 44% of residents in Colliers Wood town centre are satisfied with the way the council deals with fly tipping despite claims by the administration that the problem of fly tipping has largely been solved. Meanwhile there were only 6 successful prosecutions for fly tipping in the whole of 2013-14 compared to 31 in 2009-10 whilst, despite the introduction of a free bulky waste collection service, rates of fly tipping actually increased by 34% between 2010-11 and 2013-14.
- Only 50% of residents are satisfied with the way the council deals with dog fouling. There have also been falls in levels of satisfaction with the council's street cleaning service and recycling facilities, both of which are now below the London average.

This Council further notes that the recycling rate in 2013-14 was just 38% against a national average of 43%, well below Merton's own target of 42% and even further away from the target demanded by the European Union Directive of 50% by 2020.

This Council recognises that Merton has not taken sufficient advantage to create renewable energy through solar panels and reap the rewards of feed in tariffs on enough of its buildings and those of its partners like Circle Housing Merton Priory. Fossil Fuels continue to be the major energy source for this Council and its partners and, after 4 years of inaction, renewable energy constitutes just a small percentage.

This Council is concerned that there are no more than vague words about how 'a quality of life' will be achieved in the 'Action Plan'. This Council therefore calls on the administration to:

- a) deliver a comprehensive environmental plan with quantifiable objectives and actions to help deliver improvements to the quality of life of Merton's residents.

- b) ensure Merton measures and reduces polluting PM2.5 (all particulates that are up to 2.5 micrometres in diameter) to the legal limits.
- c) formulate ambitious plans to increase recycling including green waste.
- d) introduce electrical charging points for cars to help de-carbonise transport.
- e) focus on improved and more robust enforcement of fly tipping across the borough.

**Councillor Hamish Badenoch**

**Councillor David Dean**

**Councillor Daniel Holden**

**Councillor Janice Howard**