

COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 15 APRIL 2015

NOTICE OF MOTION

This Council shares public concern about travellers illegally occupying public green spaces and other public areas in the Borough.

Whenever travellers are evicted by the Council from one site they move on to occupy another available site in the vicinity. This has been going on for many months at the expense of public funds.

The process of undertaking travellers' needs assessments, court orders and injunctions is not only costly and time consuming but also causes a good deal of inconvenience and anxiety to the local residents.

Subsequent cleaning up and securing of the sites after the travellers' eviction is achieved by further spending tax payers' money.

This Council therefore resolves that it should:

- Take a proactive approach to secure public parks in the borough;
- Adopt a stronger stance in order permanently to prevent travellers from illegally occupying public parks and other public spaces in the future; and
- Take full advantage of the summary of powers that public bodies, such as Merton, have to help them deal with unauthorised traveller encampments which was recently published by the Government.

Cllr Charlie Chirico

Cllr James Holmes

Cllr Abdul Latif

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