

LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON	
	<u>NOTES OF MEETING</u>
	Subject: Morden Community Forum
	Date: 24th March 2015 Time: 19.15
Action Needed By:	
	<p>1. <u>Welcome and Introductions</u></p> <p>1.1 Cllr. Philip Jones welcomed everybody to the meeting.</p> <p>1.2 Approximately 11 residents attended, as well as seven councillors, and officers from the council and its partners.</p>
Inspector Mercer	<p>2. <u>Police Update</u></p> <p>2.1 Inspector Mercer and PS Simon Gettings attended the forum. Inspector Mercer informed residents that a MOPAC challenge was set three years ago to reduce rates in seven offences by 20%: burglary; criminal damage; robbery; theft of motor vehicles; theft from motor vehicles; theft from person; and violence. Merton has achieved this reduction.</p> <p>2.2 The borough is very safe and ranks in the lower half in terms of crimes in London compared to other London boroughs.</p> <p>2.3 Dan Cooke from Morden Hall Park asked about dog crime across the borough, as the park is being used, particularly at night time, to train dogs to fight. Inspector Mercer undertook to look into the problem of dog training in the park. He was not aware of an increase in dog bites to people and a system is in place to deal with such incidents: local A&Es notify the police of any attacks and provide the necessary evidence so that control orders can be placed on the animals.</p> <p>2.4 Councillor Peter Southgate asked what could be done to streamline the protocol for dealing with traveller incursions, which keep happening. Inspector Mercer said that there is currently a joint protocol in place between the police and the council but this is being reviewed. New antisocial behaviour legislation is being considered which would allow ASBOs to be issued to repeat offenders, therefore making incursions an offence that could lead to arrest.</p>
Inspector Mercer/ Stephen Alambritis	<p>2.5 A resident asked what was happening with placing controls on the number of dogs that can be walked by individuals. The deadline for the council to introduce Dog Control Orders has now passed; and legally these can no longer be brought in. The leader, Councillor Stephen Alambritis, and Inspector Mercer both agreed to speak to the council's Leisure and Culture Greenspaces department about the matter.</p>

	<p>3. <u>Morden Leisure Centre</u></p> <p>3.1 Christine Parsloe, the Leisure and Culture Development Manager, at Merton Council provided an update on the proposed new Leisure Centre for Morden, which should be built and open by the end of 2017.</p> <p>3.2 All of the surveys relating to the planning process have now been completed, legal advisors have been appointed to take the council through the process, and a project management company called Sweett (UK) Ltd has also been appointed. Sweett (UK) Ltd who have experience and knowledge of bringing forward brand new leisure centres of a similar size to the one proposed for Morden, will hopefully attend the next forum meeting.</p> <p>3.3 The council has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Morden Park Playing Fields Community Trust to work together and to use their best endeavours to bring forward the Trust's proposals alongside the leisure centre proposals.</p> <p>3.4 A second newsletter will go out after Easter to residents who requested to be kept informed of the plans, as well as to all councillors.</p> <p>3.5 A specialist quantity surveyor, design team and main contractor are still to be appointed. The procurement processes for these roles will commence over the coming months.</p> <p>3.6 Early discussions have been held with Sport England, and discussions with the GLA and the council's planning team are also scheduled to take place.</p> <p>3.7 The council also plans to look for external funding partners so that as many of the facilities that residents requested might be provided in the new leisure centre.</p>
Dan Cooke	<p>4. <u>Morden Hall Park: news from the National Trust</u></p> <p>4.1 Dan Cooke, the Commercial and Visitor Experience Manager for Morden Hall Park, gave a presentation on the plans for the park for 2015 and beyond.</p> <p>4.2 The parent company to the company that will be running the wedding venue is an established hotelier. Dan Cooke to provide the name.</p> <p>4.3 Information about the opening of the new garden centre is available on the park's website; a soft launch will be held on 29 March. Other planned events for this year are also now up on the website at http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/morden-hall-park/things-to-see-and-do/events/. The Trust is looking at working closely with the council on events and joint initiatives; some are already in place.</p>

	<p>4.4 The number of disabled and family parking spaces in the park are being increased; the number of other spaces is being decreased to allow for this. The aim is to encourage those who can to use public transport or walk to the park. The National Trust would like to use Transport for London's interactive feature on the park's website to make it easier for visitors to access the park via public transport.</p> <p>4.5 The park is looking at encouraging minicab companies to collect shoppers from the garden centre and the Trust may also provide a delivery service.</p> <p>4.6 A consultation around parking at the site is currently being undertaken, including looking at charging for parking in order to discourage commuters and local office workers from using the car park.</p> <p>4.7 All the boroughs of the Wandle Valley Regional Park are working together to get funding for sports activities. The Trust is also working with Public Health to look at ways of encouraging isolated people in the community to use the park, for example, providing concessional rates to events.</p>
	<p>5. <u>Planning update</u></p> <p>5.1 An update on Morden's regeneration can be viewed at http://www.merton.gov.uk/mordenregennewsletter.</p> <p>5.2 Councillor Stephen Alambritis said that he had met with Sir Peter Hendy, the Commissioner of Transport for London, who is keen to support the plans for the regeneration of Morden Town Centre.</p>
	<p>6. <u>Soapbox</u></p> <p>6.1 Asked what will happen to Whatley Avenue and Marlborough Hall in light of changes to Merton Adult Education (MAE), Councillor Stephen Alambritis explained that adult education will continue in the borough with an improved service; and the council is consulting with residents as much as possible about the way forward for commissioning a service. No decisions have been taken on any sites.</p> <p>6.2 It was suggested that a task force should be set up to explore a similar adult education model in Morden to that of SCOLA in Sutton. Councillor Alambritis explained that SCOLA is double the size of MAE, therefore it is difficult to compare the two.</p>

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