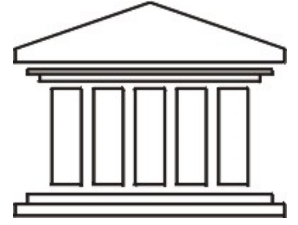


## MERTON PARK WARD INDEPENDENT RESIDENTS



LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTION 6 MAY 2010

# VOTE TO KEEP YOUR INDEPENDENT VOICE

In the Local Elections on Thursday 6 May your three votes count



John  
**SARGEANT**

Karin  
**FORBES**

Peter  
**SOUTHGATE**

### **Surely my vote can't make any difference?**

Yes it can! We are grateful to the huge numbers of you who have expressed support for Independent Residents. Your three votes could make all the difference to keeping **Merton Park Ward** independent. As the General Election falls on the same day as the Local Election the contest in Merton Park will be more intense than ever before.

### **What makes our three Independent Resident Councillors different?**

Their whole approach to representing you rests on real consultation with Merton Park Ward residents. They attend monthly MPWRA meetings, hold street surgeries, and, living in the ward, can always be contacted by phone or email. They keep you regularly informed through FORUM, our newsletter, which is delivered to every household, and our website. They run their own surveys to find out what residents really think when council evidence is inadequate. *By involving residents in this way we have changed council plans and achieved better outcomes for Merton and the Ward.*

***"The key battleground ..... will be Merton Park Ward, where Merton Park Independents have held power for 20 years."*** (Wimbledon "Guardian" 15 April 2010). Maybe, but while others may see the Ward as a battleground, we see it as a unified community sharing common values. We need your votes to keep Merton Park Ward Independent and safeguard its quality of life. We hold ourselves accountable only to you, our residents, and do not answer to any national party political agenda.

## FEEDBACK FROM THE DOORSTEP

During this campaign we are visiting every household in the ward. Here are the answers to some of your most frequently asked questions.

**What's happening to the Nelson?** Plans to redevelop as a Local Care Centre are well advanced. Our membership of the Nelson Hospital Reference Group enables us to keep a close watch on key decisions as they reach a critical stage. We continue to fight plans to sell off land surplus to immediate care centre needs, which may be needed in the future.

**Those plans for Morden Town Centre. When will we see some action?** We will actively consult on the draft masterplan for Morden. Some improvements have already begun: new signs; removal of ugly railings and unnecessary street furniture. But when it comes to major building and traffic management schemes we will ensure that your views are heard.

**What have you done about parking?** MPWIR was the first to call for the reintroduction of half day visitor permits and a freeze on annual increases in the cost of resident permits, a policy now adopted by both major parties. Now we are seeking residents' views on ideas, such as a 'one-hour exclusion', preventing commuters parking all day whilst allowing family, friends and trades-people to park for short visits without charge.

**There aren't enough primary school places.** Yes, the council has been slow to react to the growing national crisis in provision of primary places. MPWIR welcomes plans for a new school in Wimbledon to relieve local primary schools. However, to avoid a repetition of this crisis, we shall press for closer monitoring of the numbers of children in all age groups to enable efficient school place provision.

**Times are tough. How will the Council avoid large increases in council tax?** MPWIR voted for the 1.4% reduction in council tax. We favour keeping council tax as low as is consistent with protecting front line services. Faced with expected cuts in public sector funding, MPWIR will **not** support inessential capital projects.

**Are you truly Independent?** Yes! Our record shows we consult with our residents and promote and vote for the policies that are best for the community. We work for cross-party solutions and reject divisive political posturing. The issues determine how we cast our votes, not national party politics.

If you were out when we called, we're sorry we missed you. If you have any comments or questions please contact us: Email: [mpwra@mertonpark.org.uk](mailto:mpwra@mertonpark.org.uk) Visit our website: [www.mertonpark.org.uk](http://www.mertonpark.org.uk)  
Phone: Karin Forbes 020 8540 3314 John Sargeant 020 8542 9361 Peter Southgate 020 8542 2053

-----Please show your support by displaying this poster in your window-----

KARIN

JOHN

**FORBES**

**SARGEANT**

PETER

**SOUTHGATE**

**Independent Residents**