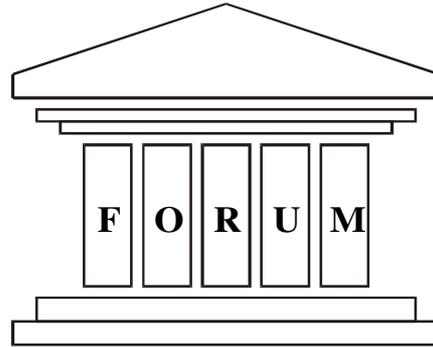


# MERTON PARK WARD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



Spring 2018

Issue No 59

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Since 1990, Merton Park Ward has been represented on Merton Council by Independent Resident Councillors. As our three councillors come to the end of yet another four-year term, I'm sure you will join me in thanking them for all their hard work, looking after Merton Park and the interests of the people who live here.

**On 3 May, there will be local elections for councillors in Merton.** Once again, we shall be putting forward three Independent Resident candidates. Election time is always busy and we would welcome more volunteers to join our team of supporters. We need:

- **deliverers** to put election literature through the doors, starting in mid-March.
- volunteers to have our '**bus stop**' style election posters in their front gardens and, equally important, people to join the team to erect the bus stops. Bus stop activity starts at the end of March and runs through April.

**If you value having Independent Councillors to represent you on Merton Council** and would like to help us during the election period, please do get in touch with me by telephone 020 8540 3087 or email [hubertchild@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hubertchild@hotmail.co.uk). Your help and support will be much appreciated.

We'd also welcome your **feedback** on ways in which our Independent Resident Councillors have made a difference for you over the last four years. Email [mpwra@mertonpark.org.uk](mailto:mpwra@mertonpark.org.uk)

**And don't forget to make sure you're registered to vote! Tuesday 17 April** is the latest date to register in time to vote on **3 May**. Go to [www.merton.gov.uk/voting](http://www.merton.gov.uk/voting) for more information, to register to vote or to apply for a postal vote. If you have any questions about voter registration email [mpwra@mertonpark.org.uk](mailto:mpwra@mertonpark.org.uk)

**Hubert Child, Chairman**

**Merton Park Ward Residents' Association (MPWRA) sponsors three Independent councillors who form Merton Park Ward Independent Residents (MPWIR) on Merton Council**



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**Morden Court Parade**  
 on London Road is now restored to its full Art Deco glory. It has been shortlisted for the RIBA McEwen Award 2018.

**MERTON HALL**

Plans to move Elim Church into Merton Hall are about to go ahead. The Hall was listed as an Asset of Community Value in January which gave local groups six weeks to make a bid for the building. The council do not expect a viable bid and so are proceeding with their schedule. (We believe on-site works will not begin until the bid period has ended.)

Although the front of the building is to be retained the rest will be demolished and rebuilt to accommodate Elim. **We deeply regret the loss of this piece of our heritage, given to the community by John Innes.** At scrutiny meetings our Independent Resident Councillors have queried the need to demolish so much of the Hall; they also suggested alternative sites for the new secondary school which will displace the existing Elim Church. But the cabinet can drive through their land swaps to complete the deal.

**Faced with the decision to proceed we have requested that artefacts of local significance should be reclaimed from the building before demolition begins.** We have had a preliminary meeting with council officers at the Hall to assess the task.

**JS**

**CROSSRAIL2 (CR2)**

The proposed railway linking the national rail networks in Surrey and Hertfordshire through an underground tunnel across London, is projected to cost around £30 billion. There are no decisions yet about its future. The CR2 business case is to go through an independent financial review, to check the numbers and consider which 'stakeholders' should contribute to the cost. Until the review is completed, with an endorsement of the business case, CR2 is unable to consult on any new proposals.

We are pleased that during the delay, the CR2 design team will reconsider the impact of CR2 on the centre of Wimbledon. It had been suggested that the Parliamentary Bill might be introduced in 2019 and passed in 2021/22 but that timescale now appears unlikely.

**JS**

**MORDEN REGENERATION**

Plans for the massive redevelopment of **Morden Town Centre** are gathering pace. Merton Council is working closely with TfL to explore opportunities. Together, they have the land and access to finance to launch a scheme to transform the centre of Morden by the early-mid 2020s. Merton and TfL have been testing potential developer interest in the town centre; procurement of the right partner will begin in the Autumn once negotiations with TfL are completed.

Through the scrutiny process we have been urging - and the cabinet has now accepted - that the Council should have a significant share in the Joint Venture project organisation. This would maintain its much-needed control over the development. The Council has also secured funding to support their planning work which could speed up delivery of the whole project. **But the bigger it becomes the more we are concerned that Merton maintains sufficient control and that we all keep a close eye on the plans.**

**JS**

**PROPOSED RE-DEVELOPMENT OF THE WHITE HART PUB**

The Rutlish Foundation held a well-attended public consultation in December on the proposed re-development of the White Hart pub and car park on the Kingston Road. The mixed-use development would be built in two phases. The first would be a four-storey building with two retail units on the ground floor and up to 20 one, two and three-bedroom flats on the floors above. The second phase, facing Rutlish Road, would be up to 26 flats of mixed sizes and the possibility of a crèche, library or a gym on the ground floor. It was also suggested that the building could be set back to widen the rather narrow pavement on the Kingston Road and that the footpath alongside the tram from the road be widened for better access.

**EF**

## Local Elections are on Thursday 3 May 2018 - Are you registered?

British, Irish, Commonwealth and EU citizens are entitled to vote in local elections

**Tuesday 17 April** is the latest date to **register online** in time to vote on **3 May**

If you want a postal vote your application must be received by **5pm on Wednesday 18 April**

Go to [www.merton.gov.uk/voting](http://www.merton.gov.uk/voting) for more information, to register or to apply for a postal vote

Any questions? Email us [mpwra@mertonpark.org.uk](mailto:mpwra@mertonpark.org.uk)

### HOUSING TARGETS IN THE LONDON PLAN WHAT DO THEY MEAN FOR MERTON PARK?

We need to build more homes in London, especially affordable homes. After a decade of stagnation following the financial crash of 2008/9, the Mayor's ambition to increase the rate of housebuilding across London by 53% is to be welcomed. But the proposed distribution of new homes is not evenly spread and South West London seems to be taking a disproportionate share. Kingston's annual target increases by 112%, Richmond by 157% and Sutton by 159%. **Merton's target is increased by a whopping 223% from 411 to 1328 new homes each year – the largest increase for any of London's 32 boroughs.** This greatly exceeds Merton's forecast population growth of 13% for 2016-2031.

Where are all these new homes meant to go? Merton's current local plan lists all identified sites. These have been sufficient to meet or slightly exceed the annual target of 411 new homes for the past 10 years (434 new homes were built in 2016/17) but they cannot accommodate more than three times that number.

Since the supply of land is finite, the answer seems to be to increase the density of development on existing sites. Cllr Jules Pipe, Deputy Mayor for Planning at the Greater London Authority (GLA), has said he wants to bring outer London up to inner London housing densities – while preserving the Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land. This outcome is to be achieved by massively increasing densities of residential development around transport hubs – Morden Underground station is a prime example. Colliers Wood and South Wimbledon are also zoned for intensification. New housing will be predominately one and two-bedroom flats, to balance the supply of existing three-bedroom houses in the suburbs. Car use will be discouraged – no on-site parking spaces will be provided.

If this is to be the Brave New World of residential development in Morden town centre, the key issue for Merton Park is – how will it relate to the established suburbs lying just outside the town centre? **This is where the new Local Plan for Merton can play a critical role provided the right policies are adopted.** The transition from high rise in the town centre to two/three storey houses in the suburbs must be sensitively managed to avoid a jarring contrast between the two and preserve the spaciousness of the suburbs. **We are keen to see how the planners propose to achieve this - be assured we are on their case.**

PS

### BACK GARDEN DEVELOPMENT

At a public meeting on the draft London Plan in early January, Cllr Jules Pipe, Deputy Mayor for Planning at the GLA, reassured us that there is to be **'no building on back gardens'**.

Nevertheless, applications to build houses on back garden sites in Merton Park are still made. Recent applications for sites where planning permission has previously been refused include: a one-bedroom house at the rear of 84 Mostyn Road (fronting onto Kenley Road); a single storey one-bed house adjoining 163A Mostyn Road (depending on a narrow track between nos. 151/153 Mostyn Road for access); a bungalow behind 116 Kenley Road, fronting onto Sandbourne Avenue (*refused as we go to press*).

In dismissing the appeal against a previous refusal for 116 Kenley Road, the Planning Inspector emphasised the value he placed on safeguarding the open aspect of the garden suburb. He judged the development: **'...would unduly intrude into its open character and would unacceptably harm the street scene'** and that it would **'unduly diminish the living conditions of neighbouring residents'**. We are in full agreement with the Inspector!

**We will be examining the draft Local Plan closely as it develops over the next year, to ensure the green and open character of Merton Park, that we all value so highly, is properly safeguarded in the planning policies that will guide development over the next decade.**

PS

**We always welcome new members and it only costs £5 a year or £20 for 5 years**  
Visit [www.mertonpark.org.uk](http://www.mertonpark.org.uk) to download a membership form or contact Pauline Southgate on 020 8542 2053  
[membership@mertonpark.org.uk](mailto:membership@mertonpark.org.uk)  
for more information

## LITTER IN MERTON PARK

In the year since Veolia took over litter collection and street cleaning, the service has come under borough-wide criticism. In Merton Park, I have been trying to get the bins near Rutlish School and the Nelson Health Centre emptied more frequently and have now been assured that the bins will be emptied three times a week.

The stretch of Cannon Hill Lane from Bakers End to Kingston Road has been particularly bad. This is another high footfall area from the school to the shops on Kingston Road and is not helped by refuse sacks often being left out on Cannon Hill Lane the night before collection, which are then ripped open by foxes. I recently met residents and the local area manager from Veolia to discuss these issues. On our short walk it was very evident that there was an unacceptable build-up of detritus and other litter. At the time of writing, I am pleased to say that clean-up work has started in Cannon Hill Lane.

Currently we are receiving a weekly dashboard from Veolia that shows missed refuse collections, including food and garden waste, roads needing sweeping, overflowing bins etc. These come from the **reporting page at [www.merton.gov.uk](http://www.merton.gov.uk) which is the best place to log a problem. It sends a message to the Veolia crews who may be able to act quickly if they are nearby. It also leaves a digital trail and reference number that can be tracked to monitor performance.** Please use the website to report issues so that we can monitor Veolia's performance, which they are working hard to improve.

EF

### Do you like having Independent Resident Councillors?

We'd love to receive your **feedback** on ways you think Merton Park has benefitted from what they do and why you'll be voting for them again.

### Has one of the councillors helped you?

Please let us know.

Email [mpwra@mertonpark.org.uk](mailto:mpwra@mertonpark.org.uk)

**Next meeting: Wednesday 7 March  
8pm at Merton Park Primary School, Erridge Road**

***Special General Meeting to adopt candidates to  
stand in the local elections followed by  
Councillors' Question Time***

### MPWRA's regular meeting day at Merton Park Primary School is on the first Wednesday of each month (no meetings in January and August)

Meetings start at **8pm**, usually with an outside speaker on a topic of local interest

<b>7 March</b>	<b>Special General Meeting and Councillors' Question Time</b>
<b>4 April</b>	<b>Sarah Gould, Merton Heritage on <i>Merton Memories</i></b>
<b>9 May</b>	<b>Andrew Whittington, <i>Merton Mencap</i></b> (NB change of date to avoid local elections)

Tea, coffee and biscuits are available during a short break before your three Independent Councillors give their reports and answer any questions from the audience. There is also a neighbourhood police report.

Meetings finish by 10pm.

**Twice a year we meet at Poplar Primary School, Poplar Road South.**

You will find details of future meetings on our website [www.mertonpark.org.uk](http://www.mertonpark.org.uk) and on posters around the ward

**Sign up for our email alerts by emailing [mpwra@mertonpark.org.uk](mailto:mpwra@mertonpark.org.uk)**

#### MPWRA Officers

Chairman: Hubert Child 020 8540 3087  
Vice Chairman: Bryan Anderson  
Secretary: Christine Stutt 020 8543 6843  
Treasurer: Fred Rayner

[www.mertonpark.org.uk](http://www.mertonpark.org.uk)

#### MPWRA Committee

Julia Bullman Patrick McNamara Judy Sargeant  
Graham Clark Stephen Mercer David Slocombe  
Philippa Foskett David Merriman Pauline Southgate  
Ian Garbett Jolanta Nowak Dickie Wilkinson

[mpwra@mertonpark.org.uk](mailto:mpwra@mertonpark.org.uk)