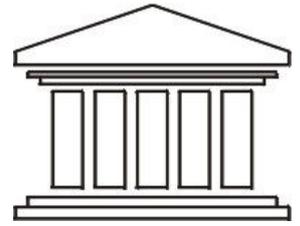


## MERTON PARK WARD INDEPENDENT RESIDENTS



LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTION 22 MAY 2014

# INDEPENDENTS – GOOD FOR MERTON PARK, GOOD FOR MERTON

### **MPWIR acts responsibly**

We hold the balance of power in Merton. We've worked constructively with minority Conservative and Labour administrations in the best interests of Merton residents as a whole. We've been representing Merton Park Ward residents for 24 years. We make sure your views get heard – and on the next page you can see how we've made a difference.

### **MPWIR is Independent**

We answer exclusively to Ward residents, with no hidden political agendas. There's no danger of national party politics preventing us from doing what's right for Ward residents.



### **MPWIR gets things done**

We value the benefits and amenities we all enjoy living in Merton Park Ward. We act to preserve and enhance the area. We work closely with other local organisations, including the John Innes Society and the neighbourhood police team, to safeguard our quality of life.

### **MPWIR thrives on communication**

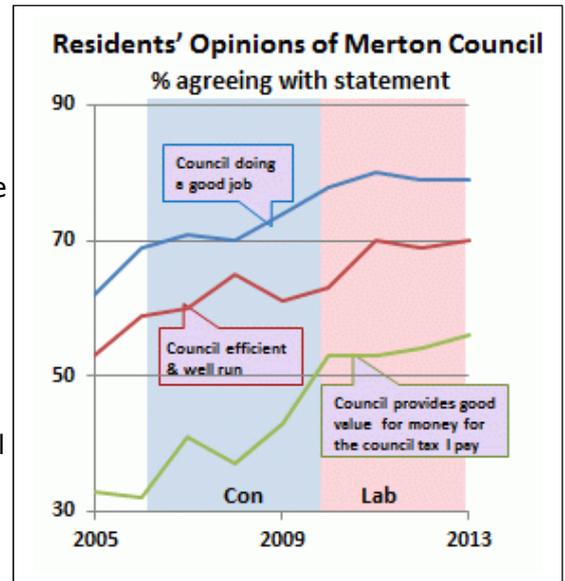
We always listen to what you say and keep you informed. With monthly meetings, street surgeries, our FORUM newsletter delivered to every household and our website, we are constantly in touch. Our councillors are required to live in the Ward and can always be contacted by email, telephone or post.

# WHAT WE'VE ACHIEVED OVER THE LAST FOUR YEARS

## We've used the balance of power for good in Merton



- MPWIR has held the balance of power on Merton Council for 8 years during two minority administrations: Conservative 2006/10; Labour 2010/14.
- Merton has improved steadily to achieve the highest ever scores for efficiency and value for money as the Annual Residents Survey shows.
- In 2013 Merton won the MJ award for the highest achieving council.
- MPWIR has worked to keep party politics out of decision making in council – **we only care about what's best for Merton.**



## We always communicate with you

We don't tell you what to think; we give you information, always listen to your opinions and we:

- ran genuine surveys** (not one-sided petitions) and acted on your answers.
- conducted our own consultation** on far-reaching plans for Morden so final plans were rebalanced in favour of residents.
- held monthly meetings** open to all residents, to tell you what's happening and hear your views.
- sent free email alerts** to hundreds of ward residents (see website [www.mertonpark.org.uk](http://www.mertonpark.org.uk)).
- live in the Ward** and publish our contact details. Any resident can approach us direct.

## We've kept a close eye on the numbers

We played a key role in controlling Merton's Budget. Central government has cut its grant to Merton by £70m so we have worked hard to make savings without cutting vital services. Also we:

- vetoed Labour's proposal** to give £100 back to every council tax payer in 2010 by running down reserves.
- voted against Conservative proposals** to cut council tax by 2.5%. This would require further savings of £2m a year on top of nearly £16m savings Merton already has to find from 2016 onward.
- voted to freeze Council Tax** four years in a row - and we will vote to keep it frozen next year.

## We've got involved

Working with other groups to build a better ward, we:

- worked closely with the local police** through the Police Ward Panel and other liaison groups; we hold one of three councillor places on the Borough's new Safer Neighbourhood Board established by the Mayor of London.
- surveyed local opinion. The results led the Council to **abandon plans to extend CPZ's** to Saturdays.
- worked for successful sale and transformation of **Wimbledon House** back to its proper role as a nursery school.
- successfully pressed for **rough sleepers to be removed from Peel House car park** in Morden and offered hostel accommodation.

## We've looked after the Ward

We have helped a huge number of residents with their individual problems. We have also:

- pressed developers of the new **Nelson project** to deliver best outcomes for residents and patients
- installed barriers to **prevent travellers returning** to Mostyn Gardens.
- led residents' initiatives to **improve parking** near the Nelson LCC and in Cranleigh Road.
- opposed closure of the John Innes Path** to residents but agreed measures to protect Rutlish pupils and staff in emergencies.
- produced our own practical guide** to Conservation Area rules for new residents.
- forced the Council to **mend** the Grade II listed **walled entrance** to Church Lane Playing Fields.

## Our skills and experience have been recognised

In four of the last nine years Merton has chosen a MPWIR Councillor to be Deputy Mayor

**2013/14**  
Cllr John Sargeant

**2009/10**  
Cllr Karin Forbes

**2008/9**  
Cllr Krysia Williams

**2005/6**  
Cllr Peter Southgate

# WHAT WE WILL DO IN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS

## Ensure planned redevelopment in Morden is done sensitively

- defend existing local housing from adjacent high-rise development
- fight for parking provision to shoppers and residents
- lobby government to change planning regulations to prevent the spread of betting shops and payday lenders in Morden



## Defend our Crown Jewels

- continue to fight to keep St Helier Hospital open
- support the Governors of Rutlish in opposing the Council's request to expand the school from 8FE to 10FE

## Safeguard Merton Park's unique character

- resist further planning and enforcement cutbacks in Merton
- protect Conservation Areas through Article 4 Directions
- ensure neighbours are consulted on plans for extensions
- press for 150% council tax to be levied on properties left empty for more than two years, to bring them back into use



## Improve our street scene and green spaces

- defend weekly refuse collections, but oppose compulsory introduction of wheelie bins
- insist on 20 minutes free parking in all our local shopping parades
- defend half day visitor permits reintroduced by MPWIR
- demand better targeted measures against reckless speeding drivers
- improve pedestrian safety in Cannon Hill Lane
- get more council support for volunteer groups like the Friends of John Innes Park and of Mostyn Gardens

## BUT WE WILL NOT

- attempt to bribe you with your own money; we respect your intelligence, and believe you deserve better than that
- make unfunded promises that push the Council further into debt
- campaign on issues like membership of the EU or immigration; these are matters for parliament, not local councillors

### Contact us:

Edward Foley 020 8542 5824  
John Sargeant 020 8542 9361  
Peter Southgate 020 8542 2053

### Email:

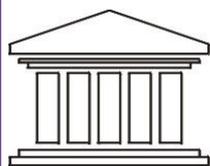
[mpwra@mertonpark.org.uk](mailto:mpwra@mertonpark.org.uk)

### Post:

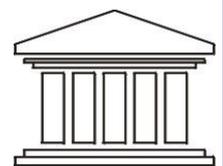
MPWRA  
5A Sheridan Road, London SW19 3HW

### Follow us on Twitter:

@EdwardFoley  
@SargeantJohn



See our website  
[www.mertonpark.org.uk](http://www.mertonpark.org.uk)  
for news about Merton Park Ward



# MEET YOUR INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES

**Edward Foley** moved to the borough from Twickenham 25 years ago and has been living in Merton Park for 15 years. He owns and runs his own estate agency business in Wimbledon Village employing local people and is assisted most days by his black Labrador Truffle.

He joined the MPWRA committee eight years ago and became vice-chair in 2012. Edward takes an active role in the Merton Park community; he was on the Diamond Jubilee committee and sponsored the Cobham Brass Band for the celebrations on Glebe Field two years ago. Edward has been a governor at Ricards Lodge High School for the last three years. He has been an active member of the ward panel of the local Merton Park Safer Neighbourhoods Team for the last six years.

Edward is married to Miranda and they have two children who both attended Wimbledon Chase School. His daughter is now at Ricards Lodge High School and was a Wimbledon ball girl last year. His son attends Rutlish School. In his spare time Edward coaches mini rugby at Old Emanuel Rugby Club and enjoys family walks with the dog on Wimbledon Common.



**John Sargeant** is a life-long resident of Merton and has represented Merton Park Ward since 2010. He is currently Deputy Mayor of Merton. As a councillor John has served on the borough's Licensing Committee and the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel. He was a member of Task Groups reviewing our town centres, local employment and waste management. He was a key member of the Nelson Hospital Reference Group and now represents ward councillors on policing issues across the Morden area.

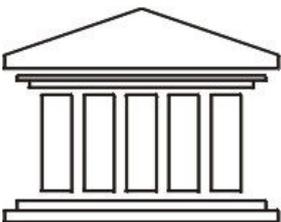
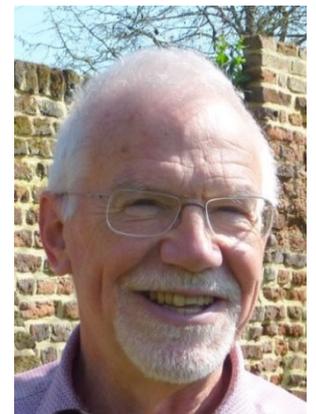
John went to Hillcross and Rutlish schools before winning a Surrey scholarship to Charterhouse School. After Sussex University he entered the nuclear industry and then worked for nearly 30 years with BP. John spent several years in the US and the Far East, where he developed new businesses. He now consults part-time, providing strategic support to marketing operations.

John is married to Judy. They have two grown-up children, who attended local primary schools, and are also proud grandparents. John is a member of the London Library and the Royal Institute of International Affairs at Chatham House. He can sometimes be sighted striding across the Surrey countryside or labouring in his garden.

**Peter Southgate** was first elected to represent Merton Park Ward in 2002 and re-elected as Leader of the MPWIR in 2006 and 2010. He chairs the Overview & Scrutiny Commission (OSC), which is responsible for scrutinising the budget and holding the executive to account. It recently completed a review of volunteering in Merton. Peter also sits on the Planning Applications Committee and the Safer and Stronger Partnership.

Peter has lived in Merton all his life. As a child he lived in Wimbledon Park and attended Wimbledon Park Primary School and Kingston Grammar School. He went to Manchester University to study Economics and Sociology and met his wife Pauline, a mathematician. They married and settled in Merton Park in 1967. They moved to their present home in Dorset Road in 1973. Both their sons attended Merton Park Primary and Wimbledon Chase Middle School.

Peter spent his career in market research, first with major agencies and then, from 1981, heading up his own research consultancy. In the local community he is a governor of Merton Park Primary School, a trustee of the Merton and Morden Guild and chair of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association Liaison Group.



**VOTE INDEPENDENT RESIDENT**  
**on**  
**THURSDAY 22 MAY 2014**

