

If you are reading this electronically, the Council has saved **£0.14** on printing. For more information on the Modern.gov paperless app, contact Democratic Services

Merton Council

Council

21 September 2022

Supplementary agenda

5 Public questions to cabinet members

1 - 4

The questions and written responses will be circulated at the meeting.

This page is intentionally left blank

1 From Lin Bowdery

To the Cabinet Member for Local Environment, Green Spaces and Climate Change

When are you going to do MORE about the flytipping that goes on in the borough? It is an absolute disgrace, does Merton Council NOT care, the money wasted on picking up flytipped rubbish must be astronomic. St Helier Ave/Neath & Netley Gdns, needs signs & cameras NOW.

Reply

I share your frustration at the small minority who choose to dump rubbish on our streets and do not respect our community. The council is taking active steps to crackdown on these fly tippers including; Increasing the number of enforcement officers patrolling fly tipping hotspots issuing £500,000 in fines for littering and fly tipping offences since January, investing in more mobile CCTV and are using some of the footage in our Merton wall off shame appeal

<https://www.merton.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling/litter-fly-tipping-and-street-cleaning/wall-shame> and to make it easier for our residents to report fly tipping so that it can be cleared quickly, we've launched the Fix my street reporting tool.

In reference to St Helier Avenue and Neath Gardens, I have asked our officers to include this in our list of fly tipping hot spots and to look at what additional targeted actions can be taken.

2 From Kevin Clarke

To the Cabinet Member for Transport

Merton consulted on alterations to the loading bay at Kingston Road/ Sandringham Ave on 19 January 2012. Why was this not implemented?

Reply

In 2011 the bus stop was replaced with a loading bay. Although a statutory consultation was carried out in January 2012 to make a change to the loading bay, it appears that the consultation was halted. Due to the time that has lapsed, unfortunately, there is no further information available.

3 From Mark Ingham

To the Cabinet Member for Housing and Sustainable Development

Rather than spending £300K on updating Merantun's plans, could you please explain why the council would not be better off, in terms of money and time, selling the land with the current permissions to a purchaser who would then be responsible for the updating of the plans?

Reply

The Council agreed in December 2021 to dispose of the former Merantun Development sites, as noted in the question; to sell with the current permissions for a purchaser to update the plans.

The downside to this approach is that the Council loses control of what happens to land. There is a scarcity of available development land in Merton and an acute shortage of good quality low carbon affordable housing, with more than 9,500 on the housing waiting list. The Cabinet now intends to take a more proactive role to the direct delivery of housing either by building it ourselves, or by transferring the land to a housing association on the basis that the updated plans will be built out. The decision to invest in updating the plans now (which would have to happen in either scenario) is to speed up the overall programme of housing delivery. The updated plans will mean that the schemes are ready to start on site immediately (whether that be the Council itself or by a housing association developer). The investment is to speed up the delivery of this affordable housing..

4 From D J Merriman

To the Cabinet Member for Housing and Sustainable Development

The term "genuinely affordable housing" used in the Special Cabinet Meeting of 31st August does not appear to be a formal definition under the Mayor of London's policy. What is "genuinely affordable housing"? How does it differ from other approved definitions and how can it be enforced?

Reply

The term "genuinely affordable housing" is widely used by the Mayor of London and many London local authorities to describe housing options that are more affordable to local residents.

The Mayor of London is quoted as describing "genuinely affordable" as:

My draft London Plan is clear that all new affordable homes in London must be genuinely affordable. Genuinely affordable homes include my preferred affordable housing products (London Affordable Rent (LAR), social rent, London Living Rent (LLR) and London Shared Ownership), alongside alternative housing products which meet the definition of genuinely affordable housing in my London Housing Strategy.

[Affordable Housing Definitions | Mayor's Question Time \(london.gov.uk\)](#)

Further elaboration on the topic can be found at [Definitions of affordable homes | Mayor's Question Time \(london.gov.uk\)](#)

5 From Emma Madison

To the Cabinet Member for Local Environment, Green Space and Climate Change

In each of the calendar years since the council declared a climate emergency, how many applications have been received for solar panels on houses in conservation areas and what % of these applications have been successful?

Reply

Since July 2019 we received 9 applications for planning permission for solar panels on domestic properties in conservation areas and 8 were granted permission and 1 was refused.

6 From Sarah McDonald

To the Cabinet Member for Transport

What is the plan for tackling idling cars outside Harris Wimbledon on double yellow lines that is a safety and pollution risk?

Reply

The parking on double yellow lines is an enforcement matter for our parking enforcement team, our CEOs patrol this area regularly and we will issue a Penalty Charge Notice on any vehicle found parked illegally.

In respect of air pollution, this area is incorporated into our monitoring network. The average monthly nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) concentration in 2021 for Merantun Way was (30 Micrograms per cubic meter) and the 2022 non bias adjusted average result (Jan 2022 – July 2022) is currently 30.

Additional monitoring at Merton Abbey Primary showed pollution levels that achieved the national objectives, (20 Micrograms per cubic meter).

The annual objective is currently 40 mgm-3, as such it is highly likely that the annual mean objective will be complied also for these locations in 2022.

That said, the council continues to work with schools, and we have received grant funding to develop a schools super zone in this area, this will look at actions to create healthier places for children, young people and their families to live, learn and play. Some examples of initiatives include working with local fast-food takeaways and convenience stores to create a healthier local food environment, promoting active travel, anti-idling, reducing the flow of traffic in streets outside schools to improve air quality and restricting the advertising of harmful products.

Details of this project can be found here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/health/school-superzones>

7 From Mr Nigel Benbow

To the Cabinet Member for Local Environment, Green Spaces and Climate Change

A resident was unfairly penalised on a collection day as proven by the FPN date/time. Numerous enquiries all met with radio silence. Will the Leader kindly explain why this appalling treatment occurred when his administration are meant to be transparent/answerable to enquiries; and will he write a letter to apologise?

Reply

I am unable to comment on this individual case at present as we are awaiting additional personal information directly relating to this incident. John Bosley, Assistant Director Public Space, would be happy to follow this matter up and would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter with you and the resident to ensure that this issue is resolved.

It should be noted that the aim of our enforcement patrols is to target those who choose to ignore the littering / fly tipping laws which the majority of our residents and visitors abide by.

Residents do have the right to make formal representation against any FPN issued to them and are advised of this at the time of issuing and in our written documentation issued. Residents also have the right to make a complaint if they disagree with the FPN and this will be dealt through the normal complaints process.