

# **Merton Council Council**

**12 April 2017**

## **Supplementary agenda**

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## COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 12 APRIL 2017

### MOTION - STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE – SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

This Council recognises that Merton's residents regularly cite street cleanliness as one of their top concerns, and that the weekly street clean of residential roads is integral to delivery of the clean streets that residents want and value.

This Council is therefore concerned that, following the hand over of operational responsibility for street cleaning in Merton to Veolia from April 2017, there will no longer be guaranteed weekly sweeping of all residential roads in the borough. Furthermore, the new system will mean just 35 (Full Time Equivalent) street cleaners being deployed by Veolia across the whole of Merton, a reduction of 39% compared to April 2014 (57 FTEs). Further cuts by Veolia to the number of street sweeping posts have not been ruled out.

Given the above, this Council notes that:

- 1) The current administration was elected in 2014 on a manifesto commitment to sweep roads in Merton each week;
- 2) This component of the Phase C contract was not brought to Members' attention during scrutiny in Merton of the South London Waste Partnership joint procurement process;
- 3) There has been no consultation with residents on these changes to the service they receive; and
- 4) Further doubt is cast on the robustness of the financial case for the contract with Veolia since this is yet another example of the proposed savings being delivered through service level reductions rather than increased efficiency.

This Council therefore calls on Cabinet to negotiate with Veolia to a) reconsider the end of the weekly street clean; b) look at alternative options that enable Merton to retain a weekly sweep of residential streets, preferably straight after the refuse collection as used to occur; and c) seek to deliver the Phase C contract through efficiencies rather than service level reductions.

**Cllr Hamish Badenoch**

**Cllr Daniel Holden**

**Cllr David Simpson**

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Wimbledon Community Forum  
22 March 2017  
Chair's Report

The meeting was held at the Mansel Road Community Centre, and chaired by Councillor James Holmes. Approximately 30 residents attended, as well as five other Merton Councillors, and officers from the council and its partners. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, introducing the councillors present at the meeting.

## **Choose Wisely – Merton Clinical Commissioning Group**

Abbas Mirza from Merton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) introduced the Choose Wisely programme. The presentation can be found on the Council website at <http://www.merton.gov.uk/community-living/communityforums/wimbledoncommunityforum.htm>

Merton CCG has challenging financial savings to achieve of £13m in 2017/18 so is reviewing the provision of services in a number of areas:

- Prescriptions for vitamin supplements and self-medication
- Prescriptions for gluten free foods
- IVF treatment
- Supporting patients to be more surgery ready with increased referrals to stop smoking and weight management services

Abbas has met with over 40 local community groups to encourage people to feed in their views. Residents can also complete a survey either on paper or online. The feedback to date will be considered by the CCG Governing Body on 23 March and if they decide to proceed with any of these proposals there will be a full consultation. The papers for the meeting can be found at <http://www.mertonccg.nhs.uk/about-us/Our-Governing-Body/Pages/Governing-Body-meetings.aspx>

In response to questions Abbas said that with changing demographics and more long term conditions the NHS will need to reflect on the financial challenges this creates. The CCG has also looked into voucher schemes that are run elsewhere but it seems that that this sort of scheme might be more expensive. Colleagues are working with local councils, like Merton, to improve the integration between health and social care services. Primary care services do a range of risk assessments including obesity but CCGs are working on ways to improve coordination.

A number of people have raised the issue of procurement during the consultation and this is being considered but in an organisation the size of the NHS this can be difficult to change. Residents encouraged the CCGs to work together and with NHS England to save money on procurement and processes rather than by cutting services.

Abbas encouraged residents to away copies of the consultation and pass them on to friends and neighbours.

## **Leonie Cooper, London Assembly Member for Merton and Wandsworth**

Leonie thanked residents for their patience on a difficult day for London.

Since the election in May 2016 Leonie has taken on a number of roles within the Assembly as part of the role of scrutinising the work of the Mayor and Greater London Authority.

These include:

- Chair of the Environment Committee
- Member of Housing; Budget and Performance; and Audit Committees
- Member of London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority, alongside Councillors Moulton and Whelton from Merton.

In addition Leonie undertook a member led investigation into biodiversity in new housing developments. This investigation looked at how considering biodiversity as part of the design process could result in benefits to nature, people and the developers. Creating homes that were attractive places that people want to move into can improve the impact of increasing housing density. Leonie is hopeful this work will be used by the Mayor in putting together the new London Plan. The new London Plan will be consulted on in the autumn.

The Environment Committee has been looking into issues including air quality; Heathrow expansion; noise pollution from tube trains; and flooding and sewage issues with Thames Water. The revised Crossrail 2 business case has been submitted to Government. Leonie is hoping to see revised plans for Wimbledon and a new station in Tooting preferred over Balham to ease congestion on the Northern Line. Leonie also said that today's events highlighted the case that has already been made to Government that London needs more resources for policing because of the concentration of national and international targets.

In response to questions Leonie agreed that the current plans to extend the Ultra-Low Emission Zone do not provide enough benefits to south London as the South Circular is not that far south of the Thames, making the new zone asymmetrical. Leonie encourage residents to respond to the consultation taking place later in 2017. Transport for London consultations can be found at <https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/> and other GLA consultations at <http://talklondon.london.gov.uk/>. Leonie welcomed the news that new zero emission taxis will be available by the end of 2017 and encouraged everyone to lobby government to support a diesel scrappage scheme. New hybrid buses are being rolled out first on routes that travel through hot-spot areas, like the 93 through Putney, but the whole fleet will be improved eventually.

Congestion is a serious health issue and there is large scale development going on across London so there will need to be large scale investment in the transport network like Crossrail 2 and Tramlink extensions. The Tramlink extension between South Wimbledon and Sutton is still in the Transport for London business plan but the current sticking point is negotiations between TfL and Sutton Council about their contributions to the capital costs.

The Mayor has specific planning roles for tall buildings and large scale developments and a budget of over £3billion to support housing development. Some of this funding is being spent on the London Living Rent scheme (<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/housing-and-land/renting/london-living-rent>) and some to redevelop TfL London. Changes in the funding regime for Housing Associations means they are more reliant on private capital and therefore need to include more for-sale properties in their developments.

Leonie was not aware of the current work of the London Health Partnership but is happy to follow up on this.

The repeated failings of the traffic lights in South Wimbledon have been raised with TfL but they have not provided a satisfactory response to date. Councillor Katy Neep said that TfL reported a part was due to be replaced but the work was delayed and has not yet been rescheduled.

### **Wimbledon Masterplan**

Paul McGarry, Head of Future Merton at Merton Council, updated the meeting on the development of a Masterplan for Wimbledon. 222 people had attended the three workshops in January and February, providing more than 2000 responses to the questions and 2050 votes in 16 polls. More information and the top 10 issues identified from the workshops was made available in hand-outs that can be found at

<http://www.merton.gov.uk/futurewimbledon>.

A full report on the workshops will be made available by the end of April. The plan is to produce a draft Masterplan in June or July to coincide with the next phase of plans from Crossrail 2.

In response to questions Paul said that they would be engaging with young people by working with school councils and through social media. Merton Council is funding the Masterplan work and the 15 year plan should be adopted by the end of 2017 but would be incorporated into the borough Local Plan due to be renewed in 2018. In response to a question about protecting heritage in residential areas Paul said that South Park Gardens was not part of the town centre masterplan; but the issue would be passed to the conservation officer to consider.

### **Future of South Wimbledon**

Andrew Boyce explained that residents in South Wimbledon are coming together to develop a South Wimbledon Enhancement Plan. The plan is based on a similar approach in Raynes Park and involves residents identifying local solutions and creating a list of projects that can be supported. A group of residents, supported by Councillor Katy Neep and Paul McGarry, has already met in January and February; the next meeting is scheduled for 1 April. The motion discussed at the December meeting of the Wimbledon Community Forum is due to be considered at the next Council meeting on 12 April.

### **Soapbox**

Helen Alexander-Allen asked residents to support the No to Wheelies campaign. This is a campaign by residents to persuade Merton Council and their contractor, Veolia, to not go ahead with the roll out of wheelie bins and fortnightly collections across the borough. Instead the campaign has suggested alternative arrangements involving smaller, less obtrusive bins and weekly collections. More information is available at

<http://www.nowheeliesplease-merton.org.uk/>

A resident asked about access to toilet facilities in Wimbledon Library, and this will be taken up with the Library staff.

*Response from Wimbledon Library provided following the meeting:*

Wimbledon Library did have a public toilet but there were too many incidents of vandalism so the facility had to be locked. Customers are directed to nearby pubs, restaurants and Elys but customers can use the locked disabled toilet in an emergency. There are two extra toilets that are open during events after hours. For the coffee shop, if there are less than 12 seats there is no requirement to provide a toilet facility, and the coffee shop at Wimbledon Library provides 9 seats.

A resident asked if the 20mph speed restriction in central Wimbledon to be scrapped as it serves no purpose. Paul McGarry agreed that the police wouldn't enforce the reduced limit and as this is a main road it is not appropriate to install physical traffic calming measures. Paul agreed to check with colleagues about the signage in the zone.

**Date of future meetings:**

Wednesday 21 June 2017 at Wimbledon Arts Space

Thursday 28 September 2017 at Wimbledon Arts Space

Tuesday 5 December 2017 at Wimbledon Methodist Church

Thursday 1 March 2018 at Wimbledon Arts Space



## **COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 12 APRIL 2017**

### **MOTION**

That the following recommendation of the Wimbledon Community Forum held on 6 December 2016 is agreed:

This Council agrees to work proactively and in a meaningful way with residents in South Wimbledon to develop it into a vibrant and thriving community, that is culturally and economically progressive, and which respects its rich heritage.

**Cllr James Holmes**

**Cllr Michael Bull**

**Cllr Suzanne Grocott**

**Cllr Abdul Latif**

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<b>LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON</b>	
	<b><u>NOTES OF MEETING</u></b>
	<b>Subject: Morden Community Forum</b>
	<b>Date: 29<sup>th</sup> March 2017</b> <b>Time: 19.15</b>
<b>Action Needed By:</b>	
	<p>1. <b><u>Welcome and Introductions</u></b></p> <p>1.1 Cllr. Philip Jones welcomed everybody to the meeting.</p> <p>1.2 Approximately 21 residents attended, as well as 8 councillors, and officers from the council and its partners.</p>
	<p>2. <b><u>Police update</u></b></p> <p>2.1 Sergeant Gemma Harris informed residents that Merton Police's priorities for Morden are currently burglaries, ASB in parks and ASB related to mopeds.</p> <p>2.2 Smart Water is being delivered in Merton Park. It is hoped this will help to reduce burglaries by 35%. The wards to which Smart Water is delivered are decided centrally; the decision is dependent on burglary rates. However, the end aim is to have it in one in seven houses.</p> <p>2.3 With regard to ASB in parks, the primary cause is youths drinking, smoking and causing a nuisance. The police are carrying out proactive patrols in the parks during the evenings, especially during the summer months.</p> <p>2.4 ASB related to mopeds is a priority for the Metropolitan Police across London. Operation Venice has been set up to target all known moped-related crimes, but it remains a challenge as there is a high risk involved with pursuing mopeds. To help tackle the problem further, warrants are being issued to people at their homes.</p> <p>2.5 By May, there will be two full-time police officers per ward.</p>
	<p>3. <b><u>Morden Leisure Centre update</u></b></p> <p>3.1 Christine Parsloe, Leisure &amp; Culture Development Manager at the council, informed residents that the timetable for the leisure centre has slipped slightly, but work is still going ahead.</p> <p>3.2 The Great-Crested Newts in the park are coming out of hibernation. Once they do so and move to their new pond, work can start on site. It is hoped this will be in June, with construction starting in July. This would mean the new leisure centre would open in September 2018; after that, demolition of the existing centre</p>

	<p>would take place.</p> <p>3.3 Drains on the site need repairing and replacing, but this will be done at the same time as all other works that rely on digging up the roads.</p> <p>3.4 The design of the centre is being looked at, with a change to the shape of the roof structure – to a lower height - being considered.</p> <p>3.5 A Seedham roof would not be suitable for the new leisure centre and was never intended. Proposals to swap the locations of the fitness suite and the studio are also being considered, which would create a mezzanine floor over the café and bring the fitness suite to the front of the building.</p> <p>3.6 Work to discharge the planning conditions is underway, as well as discussions with GLL who will operate the new centre.</p> <p>3.7 The Museum of London is undertaking a survey of Morden Park Pools with regard to the heritage of the building.</p> <p>3.8 The plans for the leisure facilities will not disrupt Armed Services Day on 24<sup>th</sup> June, or other events that are planned in the park, although there will be some disruption during construction. The current leisure facilities will remain open during the new build.</p> <p>3.9 The final tender is not in yet, therefore the cost implications of the timetable slippage are not known; however, the council has set aside a capital programme budget of £11m for this project.</p>
	<p>4. <b><u>Choose Wisely programme – Merton CCG</u></b></p> <p>4.1 Abbas Mirza, the Lead on Patient and Public Engagement explained that the CCG is running a pre-engagement programme about “choosing wisely”. The proposals refer to possible changes to prescribing over-the-counter medicines, the provision of gluten free products, IVF provision, and guidance on ensuring patients are surgery ready, including advice for smokers and those with a high BMI.</p> <p>4.2 A presentation on the programme can be viewed on the <a href="#">Morden Community Forum web page</a>.</p> <p>4.3 Residents voiced concerns that pre-engagement continues, but decisions already appear to have been made by the CCG Board, for example, the decision to stop prescriptions for gluten-free foods. A resident commented that the CCG had said recipients of these prescriptions would be consulted by their GPs, but such consultation has never occurred. Abbas responded that he was not aware the CCG had committed to this, but that the CCG is</p>

	<p>conscious of concern about gluten-free prescriptions for those on a lower income being stopped and that it is keen to mitigate any impact.</p> <p>4.4 Some residents also felt that decisions are being made on a cost basis alone, not on a clinical basis, for example, the proposal to stop IVF, which some residents felt is a fundamental right that will be denied to those on lower incomes. Abbas said that further consultation on this matter is due to take place and explained that those on lower incomes will be able to make funding requests for IVF.</p> <p>4.5 Abbas noted a resident's concerns about making people surgery-ready and how this might affect those with physical disabilities and learning difficulties. Merton CIL has made the same point, which has been fed back to the CCG.</p> <p>4.6 A resident suggested that the CCG board meetings should be recorded for the public's benefit.</p> <p>4.7 Another resident expressed concerns that many with vested interests in health care are not being presented to or engaged with, with engagement seeming to focus mainly on the elderly. Abbas explained that engagement is taking place as widely as possible with as many diverse interest groups as possible, including the Coeliac Society.</p>
	<p>5. <b><u>Scrutiny topic suggestions</u></b></p> <p>5.1 Councillor Peter Southgate explained that there are three Scrutiny panels, which cover Children and Young People, Healthier Communities &amp; Older People, and Sustainable Communities. The work of the panels is monitored by the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Commission, which also has responsibility for scrutinising Crime and Disorder matters.</p> <p>5.2 The Scrutiny Panels are now inviting topic suggestions for matters that they might investigate in the coming year that are relevant to Merton and council service delivery. Past topics have included air pollution, childhood obesity, and fitness amongst the over-50s.</p> <p>5.3 Residents were asked to put forward any topic suggestions that they might have.</p>
	<p>6. <b><u>Eastern Electrics Music Festival</u></b></p> <p>6.1 Residents were informed that an application has been submitted to Merton's Licencing Committee for a music festival in Morden Park on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August.</p>

6.2 A meeting between the festival organisers, the council and other partners is scheduled to take place on 4<sup>th</sup> April, after which the council will know more details which it will be able to share with residents.

6.3 A meeting between the festival organisers and The Friends of Morden Park (MPPFA) is to be arranged within the next couple of weeks.

6.4 Whilst the MPPFA were unable to attend the Morden Forum, they provided the following statement about the festival:

“The Friends of Morden Park is a voluntary organisation with approximately 60 members. Our Committee of eleven local people meets monthly to discuss the park. We were been advised by Merton Council Parks Events Officer of the outline proposals for this music event and we discussed it at length at a special meeting of our Committee on 2nd February. We are broadly in support of this event being held in Morden Park and hope that it might put Morden on the map as a good place to hold a music event. This August event is aimed at a young audience who don't often get the chance to have something as exciting as this offered locally. It may bring business and trade to the shops, pubs and restaurants in Morden and around the park.

“Time Limited Premises Licence notices are currently around the perimeter of the park asking for representations to be made within 28 days from the date of the notice which went up on 22nd March. The organisation of the event is at an early stage but we feel it is important Morden people should be made aware of what is being proposed.

“We, of course, have some concerns; the numbers of tickets which are expected to be sold, 20,000 is much greater than those usually sold for the two Firework sessions held in the park in November. It will be a big event but Morden Park is big too and we believe it can cope. We are in liaison with Council Officers, and we will take up the offer of having a meeting with the event organisers. We are confident that it can be well organised (it has been at other venues) and our concerns listened to and addressed.

“A number of different events already take place in the park throughout the year which the public come together to enjoy. We would like to take this opportunity to remind this audience that Merton Dog Watch is due to be held in the park near the bandstand on Saturday 20th May between 10am and 4pm and the Annual Morden Family Fun-Day, which generates and distributes its proceeds to local charities, will be held in the playing fields on Sunday 16th July from 10.30am.

	<p>“We are acutely aware of fabulous parks in this borough and throughout the country being under extreme funding restrictions. We realise that parks are becoming increasingly reliant upon generating income from holding events just to keep going. If this event is a success and the organisers find it a suitable venue then we would hope it might become an annual event with the income generated making a contribution to the future of Merton parks.”</p> <p>6.5 Written copies of the statement were provided to residents at the Morden forum.</p> <p>6.6 A resident asked how the festival plan might affect the construction of the leisure centre and whether the park would still be accessible if 20,000 people were attending it for a festival. It was explained that signs around the park about the festival state that only part of the park will be fenced off.</p> <p>6.7 Councillors Jerome Neil and Imran Uddin welcomed the festival and advised residents make any concerns known to Green Spaces, so that officers can address them.</p> <p>6.8 Councillor John Sargeant also welcomed the event and the council’s innovation.</p> <p>6.9 Councillor Dennis Pearce commented that insurance, food hygiene and all other regulations for events in Morden Park are rigorously inspected, and Eastern Electrics will have to go through all these checks before they are given a licence.</p>
	<p>7. <b><u>Soapbox</u></b></p> <p>7.1 Local resident Bob Whitfield spoke about the demise of local independent newspapers and their reduced readership because they are filled with adverts rather than news stories. He stated that the community role of local papers is vital, as is their role in providing apprenticeships for reporters.</p>

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## Item 18 – Morden Leisure Centre

### Addendum

#### **There was an error on page 277 of the agenda:**

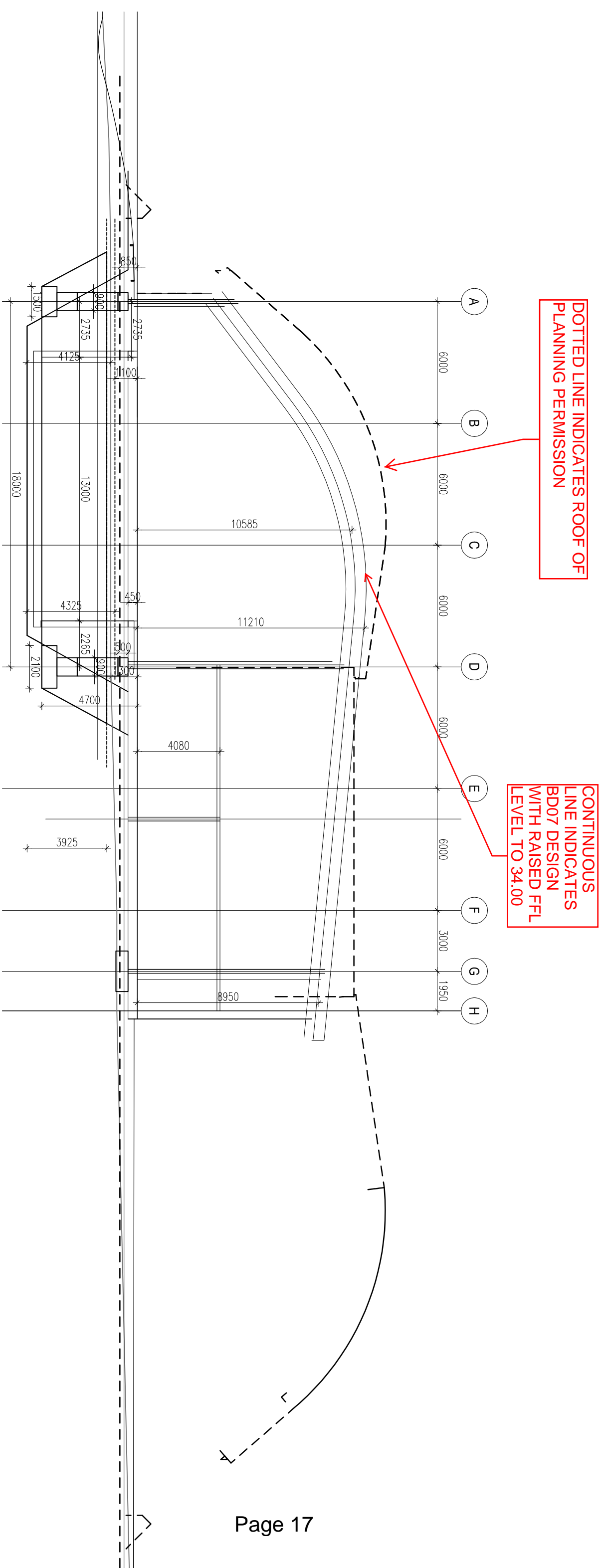
Paragraph 8.18 the sentence “The figures do not take account of the £100k savings already agreed as part of the council’s MTFS due to come out in 2018/19”

The words “do not” should be deleted and the paragraph should be replaced by:

“The figures take account of the £100k savings already agreed as part of the council’s MTFS due to come out in 2018/19”

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**APPENDIX 1 – ALTERNATIVE ROOF ELEVATION**



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