

MITCHAM COMMUNITY FORUM
27 FEBRUARY 2024

(7.15 pm - 8.30 pm)

PRESENT Councillors Councillor Aidan Mundy (in the Chair),

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (Agenda Item 1)

The meeting was held at Vestry Hall and chaired by Councillor Aidan Mundy. Six residents and four councillors attended with and with 108 additional views on YouTube. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained how the meeting would work.

2 MITCHAM TOWN CENTRE (Agenda Item 2)

Mark Warren, Mitcham Town Centre Manager, gave a presentation on the Town Centre. Mark is one of two new roles, the other is a market manager who will be starting soon. The Winter Weekend in December 2023 received good feedback from attendees. Around 2000 people attended, and some local businesses also reported increased sales. Food and craft market in February half-term was also busy with positive feedback from stall holders.

Canons House workspace now open to book. Community groups will be able to use the venue free on the last Monday of the month and the exhibition space will also open soon.

At Vestry Hall Grow London is offering free drop-in business support on 25 March from 2-4pm. There will be an Easter Crafts event on 23 March by Mitcham Arts Collective and volunteers are needed for the Chris Frost Memorial Garden needed, please contact julie.noel@merton.gov.uk if you are interested.

SGN works continue on [London Road](#) until November. There is a compensation scheme for businesses and Cllr Mundy some Low Traffic Neighbourhoods will be paused to relieve traffic.

Royal British Legion hosting coffee morning on Wednesday mornings. Exercise classes taking place on the Fair Green on Saturday and Tuesdays. New businesses have opened including cafés and restaurants.

Mitcham Matters consultation took place in late 2023 and Mark also did a focused study with under 25-year-olds at the beginning of 2024. A final report due in the

summer but in the meantime, Mark has already started to respond to some of the feedback including events, litter picking and improved landscaping. The final report will include analysis of the consultation responses and key objectives for the future of the Town Centre.

A resident asked if Mark had also had feedback from businesses, and Mark said that Greater London Authority grant funding has been delivered through the Licensing team and Business & Economy team and they have been talking to businesses. Mark has also spoken with many informally. Merton Council will be reporting back to the GLA after the funding ends.

A resident asked about problems with traffic light sequencing, and Mark explained that these are managed by Transport for London, but he can raise problems with colleagues in Highways who can report them to TfL.

A resident said that the shop next to the post office always seems closed, but Mark explained that this was a counselling service that was appointment only so is open but discreetly.

A resident said there was an issue with crossing at Coldharbour Lane near the Windmill Pub as drivers cannot see the lights. Mark said he can raise with the Highways Team but residents can report issues with traffic lights directly to [TfL](#) who are responsible for them.

A resident asked about the date for the Mitcham Carnival and if there would be better promotion for events. The date for this year's carnival will be announced on Friday 24 February. Mark is working with colleagues to develop a communications plan for Mitcham that will identify what kinds of advertising will work. The new market manager will hopefully build a routine set of events people will get used to.

A resident said that the Pawelek Coffee shop is hosing Cuppa with a Copper sessions once a week.

A resident asked about involvement with Tooting & Mitcham FC. Mark said he has contacted them but wants to follow up.

A resident asked about the former Morrisons site. Mark said the site is earmarked for development in the Local Plan and the Council is in conversations with the landowner so hope for a clearer idea over the next couple of months.

A resident asked about the Better Gym site. Mark said they are currently providing one class a week, on a Tuesday, with a six-month lease on the building. Mark is looking for other cultural providers that can use the venues in the town centre, like this one, for events.

3 LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS (Agenda Item 3)

Cost of Living

Events continuing including April at Merton Civic Centre in Morden, June at Pollards Hill Library, September at Colliers Wood Library and November at Mitcham Library. Please check the council's website and social media for the latest information. There is a Cost-of-Living e-newsletter you can sign up for.

Local Plan

The Local Plan sets the strategic planning policies for the borough. Following the review by the Planning Inspectorate they have recommended several changes to the draft local plan. Residents can view these changes at <https://www.merton.gov.uk/newlocalplan> and any comments should be submitted by Friday 22 March 2024.

Longthornton Road traffic calming

To address rat running and speed, the Council is considering the introduction of a road closures along Longthornton Road at the junctions with Rowan Road, Standford Road and Hemlock Close. To facilitate unhindered access for emergency services, the closure will be non-physical and will be enforced by an ANPR camera. You can find out more and complete a survey at www.merton.gov.uk/consultations

Voter ID

London elections on 2 May will be the first in Merton where voters will require photographic ID. You can find a list of acceptable ID on our website and apply for a Voter Authority Certificate if you need one. www.merton.gov.uk/elections

Scrutiny suggestions

The Scrutiny Team are asking for suggestions for local issues that the various Panels could investigate in 2024/25. You can complete an online form at www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny or email scrutiny@merton.gov.uk

The Wheel's Repair Café

The next session is on 16 March 2024, 13:00 – 16:00 at Canons House & Grounds

Climate Action

The next Resident Summary Report of Merton's Climate Delivery Plan is out tomorrow. This report tracks our progress over the last year and shows residents what we have planned for 2024, to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to climate change in Merton.

The Merton Voice Box

The Merton Voice Box is an audio-visual portrait of three areas in the London Borough of Merton: Mitcham, Colliers Wood & Pollards Hill. Created by Philip Bennett, a professional filmmaker and sound artist from south London, portraits, voices and sounds were recorded in conversations between the artist and twelve special people who agreed to participate and give some of their thoughts and experiences of what Dignity, Pride, Community and Impact means to them. On display at Mitcham library until 31st March, then Colliers Wood, Morden and Pollards Hill in April.

Activity Finder

New website to help residents find low-cost physical activities.

<https://getactive.io/area/merton/>

4 OPEN FORUM (Agenda Item 4)

A resident asked if there was an update on the Burn Bullock. Kris Witherington said that the planning enforcement team are waiting for the decision of the appeal to the planning inspectorate, whilst Development Control colleagues are still waiting for the outstanding documents to validate the two applications that were submitted to the Council last year. In addition, officers are looking at external sources of funding that could assist with the building.

A resident asked about road maintenance and Cllr Mundy said there is a [list of planned](#) road works. He would be happy to do a site visit to difficult areas. Another resident said that are issues with pavements. Cllr Butcher said he did a walk around with officers last summer and raised several problems to resolve. It is worth [reporting](#) to make sure issues are prioritised.

A resident asked when works at Mitcham Eastfields will start. Cllr Mundy said there had been a groundbreaking ceremony recently and work has begun. The work will be done in phases and is part of a wider estate programme across the borough.

A resident said there have been lots of problems with the 118 bus service. Some problems caused by roadworks in Mitcham, others by problems on Streatham High Road. Cllr Mundy said we raise this with Leonie Cooper AM.

A resident asked about the former Nat West site planning application and Cllr Mundy said this is still in pre-application discussions. Another resident asked about the Gassworks site on Western Road and Cllr Mundy said the developer is doing further work on the design. The Goat Road application is expected to come to Planning Applications Committee in May.

A resident said there are issues with some poor streetlights. Cllr Kawessa said he met with borough commander yesterday to discuss violence against women strategy, and there is [street safe platform](#) to report safety concerns in public places.

A resident said there are problems with dockless hire bikes blocking the pavement. Cllr Mundy said we need to [report](#) bikes causing problems so we can get contractor to deal with them. The resident said they also raised cycling on the pavement raised with Police Safer Neighbourhood Team, but it is not a priority for them.

Cllr Mundy suggested asking the police to come to the next meeting.

Cllr Henry asked if there plans for the Canons changing room and Mark said Green Spaces are planning to bring back into use.

5 DATE OF NEXT MEETING (Agenda Item 5)

To be confirmed

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Mitcham Town Centre

Mitcham Community Forum

Mitcham Winter Weekend

- bringing people back into the town centre with an estimated c. 2000 visitors
- supporting small businesses with Saturday Makers Market
- just under 700 tickets used for the ice rink

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**MITCHAM'S
WINTER
WEEKEND**

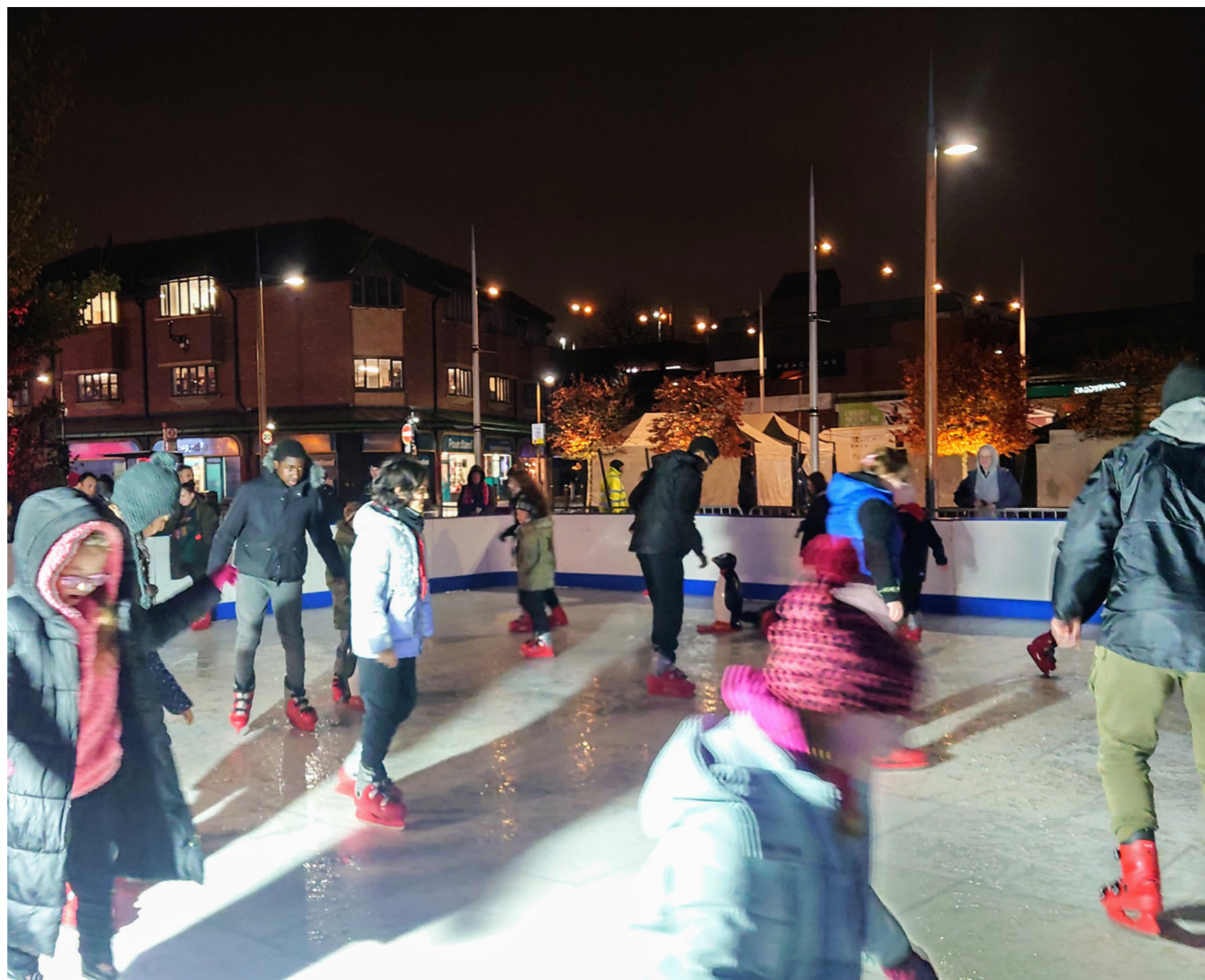
Mitcham Fair Green and Market Square
THURSDAY 7 DECEMBER 3-8pm
FRIDAY 8 DECEMBER 3-8pm
SATURDAY 9 DECEMBER 12-8pm
SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER 11-4pm

Event includes:
*Ice rink • Live music
Christmas makers market
Food • Plus more!

Scan QR code below for
more details and updates

*Ice rink must be pre-booked. Scan QR code below or visit seetickets.com





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Outcome of event

Lots of positive feedback from residents

Some market traders surprised at spending power in Mitcham

Some local businesses increased sales over the event time

Increased footfall with many who say they avoid the town centre usually

Fantastic way to bring the local community together

Mitcham needs events like this

I love that Mitcham had the opportunity to host this and that the town centre was given some love. More please to increase footfall and build the town centre up

Food and Crafts Market

- a pilot food and crafts market during half term
- supported small businesses
- ambition to grow this with the new market manager into consistent market



Canons House and Grounds

- workspace / room hire now open!
- coming soon:
 - free use of Canons House for community groups on the last Monday of every month
 - exhibition space launch end of April
- preloved studio has space for more textile reuse start-ups: contact thewheel@sustainablemerton.org
- enquiries to canons.house@merton.gov.uk / 020 8274 5330



Vestry Hall

- Grow London offering free drop in business support March 25th 2-4pm
- Easter Crafts by Mitcham Arts Collective
- Volunteers for garden Chris Frost Memorial Garden needed, please contact julie.noel@merton.gov.uk



Easter Crafting
Easter Crafts with Gill & Caroline

Join us for a delightful morning crafting Easter wreaths and lovely gift boxes!

BOOK NOW AND PAY ONLY £5

CALL: 079300 78288
OR EMAIL: INFO@MITCHAMARTSCOLLECTIVE.COM

Saturday 23rd March 2024
10.30am - 1pm
Vestry Hall, London Road, Mitcham

All supplies provided
Good Company & Refreshments

www.mitchamartscollective.com

FUNDED BY THE MERTON CIVIC PRIDE FUND



SGN Gas Works

- urgent repair work on gas infrastructure
- SGN engaging with residents and businesses
- more info here: www.sgn.co.uk/our-gas-works/major-planned-projects/mitcham-london-road



February 2024

Project ref: 15839

Dear Resident

Update regarding our gas pipe replacement work in London Road, Mitcham

I am writing to update you on the progress of our project to replace the old gas pipe network in London Road, Mitcham. This urgent work will replace the existing metal pipe with plastic (PE) pipe to ensure that you will continue to receive a safe and reliable gas supply.

SGN has invested £2 million to replace this pipe now to prevent future disruption caused by the unplanned, urgent repair work that your community has experienced in the last twelve months.

Our contractor Forefront Utilities started work at the junction of Locks Lane on Monday 22 January. This first phase of the project is on schedule to finish within the six weeks forecast. At this point, we will be able to remove the temporary lights on London Road and reopen Locks Lane to motorists.

I mentioned in my previous communication that we would need to move the work along the road and, I can share the plans for the work with you. The work will be completed in the following phases.

Please note that these phases may change dependent on the work progress. Any changes will be updated on <https://www.sgn.co.uk/our-gas-works/major-planned-projects/mitcham-london-road> Signs will also be displayed to advise of future work locations and dates.

Phase two (A) – Sunday 3 March for three weeks

Our engineers will be working along the northbound carriageway of London Road between its junctions with Eveline Road and Poplar Avenue. To ensure everyone's safety, London Road will be closed to all northbound traffic. A signed diversion route will be in place for affected motorists.

Lavender Road access will be maintained to and from the southbound lane of London Road.

London Road's northbound bus lane will also be shut between Bond Road and Eveline Road.

Phase two (B) – Monday 25 March for four weeks

We'll be working from the junction of 172 London Road to the junction of Upper Green West. A rolling bus lane closure will be in place as we progress between these locations.

What does this mean for me?

- Please check your bus timetable to see if our work has affected the bus stop, route or time
- Please advise delivery companies and visitors they may need to use the diversion route
- Please allow additional time for your journeys

Phase three – Monday 22 April for thirteen weeks

We'll then be working between Mitcham Town Centre and Locks Lane for approximately 13 weeks. During this time, London Road will be closed between these locations to northbound motorists.

Vehicles travelling from Bond Road will be unable to access London Road northbound and will be diverted via Western Road, Christchurch Road, Priory Road, High Street Colliers Wood, Tooting High Street, Mitcham Road and London Road. Access to St Mark's Car Park will remain.

London Road will remain open for southbound motorists.

From 1 July for two weeks, we'll need to close Bond Road at its junction with London Road. This will mean no access in and out of Bond Road onto London Road. A signed diversion will be in place for motorists.

Smell gas?
Call 0800 111 999

SGN is a brand name of Southern Gas Networks plc
Registered in England & Wales No. 05167021
Registered Office: St Lawrence House | Station Approach | Horley | Surrey RH6 9HJ



Phase four – Monday 15 July for two weeks

Our engineers will be returning to London Road's junction with Locks Lane for two weeks. Temporary lights will be in operation around our work area to manage traffic flow in both directions. Locks Lane will be shut to motorists at this junction and affected residents should follow the signed diversion.

Phases five and six

These phases of work in London Road are currently being planned. I will update you on our plans once they've been confirmed. The project is expected to be fully completed in November.

We understand that people can get frustrated by roadworks, and therefore we only use traffic management that we feel is efficient enough to complete these works safely for everyone.

We apologise for any inconvenience this work causes. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with our Customer Service team by calling 0800 975 1818 or via email to customer@sgn.co.uk

Yours faithfully,

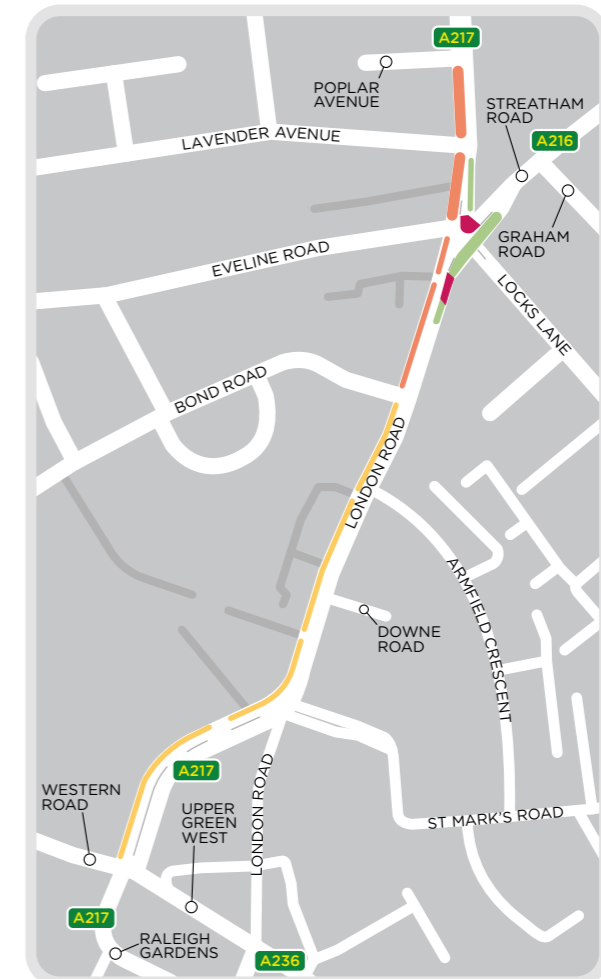
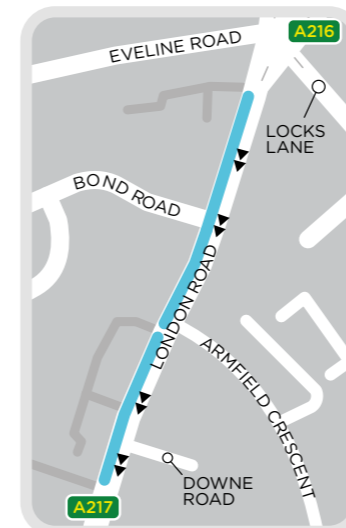
Dean Newell

Project Manager

Key

Work area:

- Phase one
- Phase two (A)
- Phase two (B)
- Phase three
- Phase four



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What's new in the Town Centre?



Community coffee mornings at the Royal British Legion

Every Wednesday morning
11.30am - 3.30pm



Free 60 minute exercise classes on Fair Green

Every Saturday 10.00-11.00am
Every Tuesday 9.30-10.30am



New businesses

T Shack: burgers & deserts
Malinowa Chmurka:
supermarket
Pawelek: Polish restaurant &
cafe

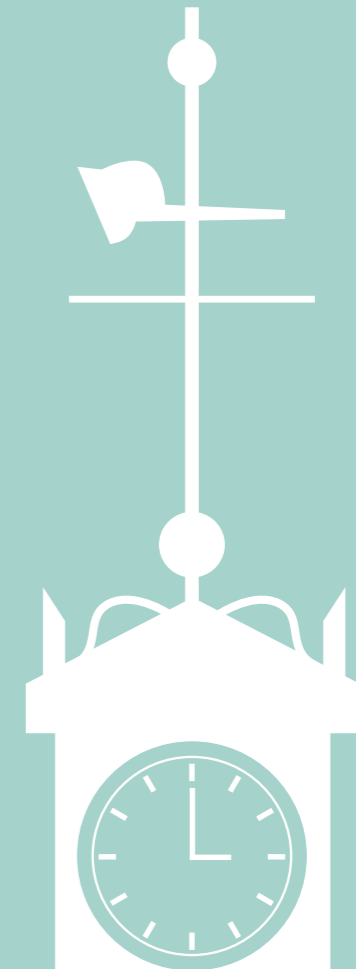
What next...

- Ongoing SGN gas works. More information here:
<https://sgn.co.uk/our-gas-works/major-planned-projects/mitcham-london-road>
- 'Mitcham Matters' consultation. Recently completed a study with circa 100 under 25's. Draft report being prepared.

Market manager to start in Spring.

Mitcham Matters

Consultation Report



Thank you. Any questions?



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