



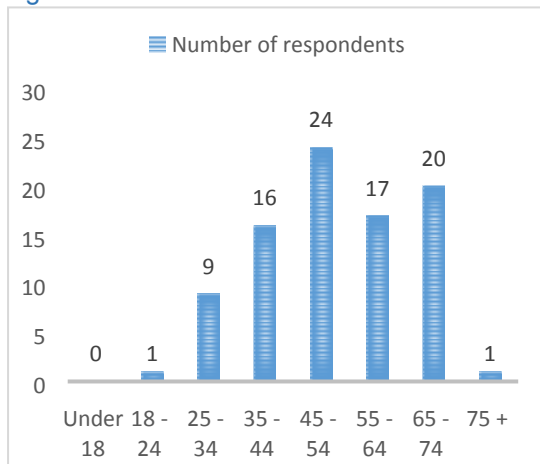
Consultation Analysis

This document summarises the responses to the Council’s Air Quality Action Plan consultation. The action plan proposed a number of actions covering distinct areas of policy.

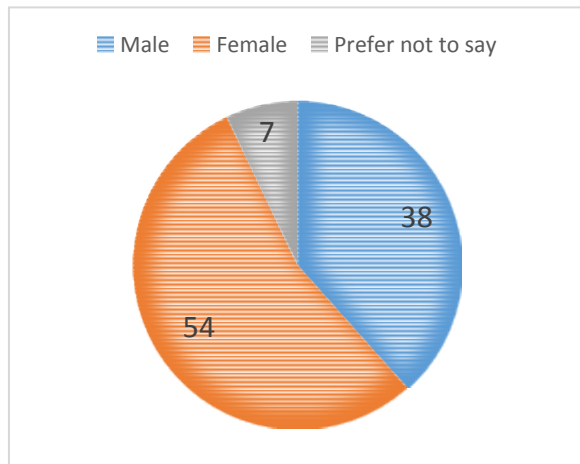
This consultation ran for a period of 6 weeks and resulted in 155 responses.

1. Response demographic

Age Profile

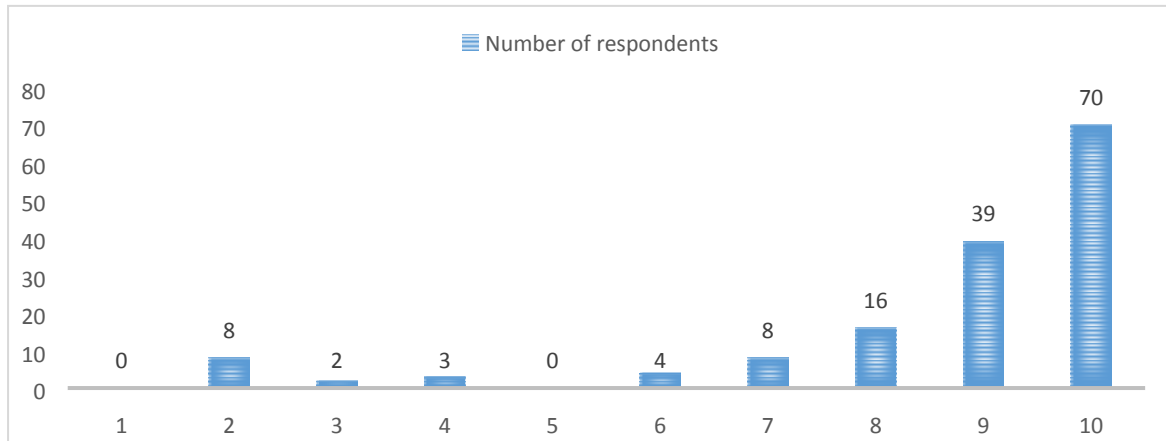


Gender



2. Concern for Air Quality

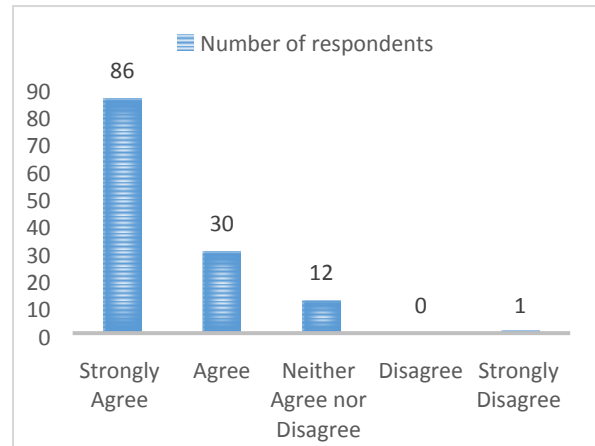
Question; “To what extent are you concerned about air quality in Merton?”



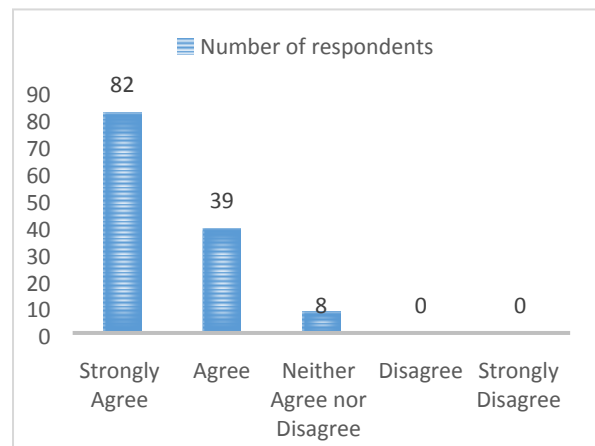
3. The Action Plan proposed measures to tackle poor Air Quality

Question; “To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed actions the Council could take?”

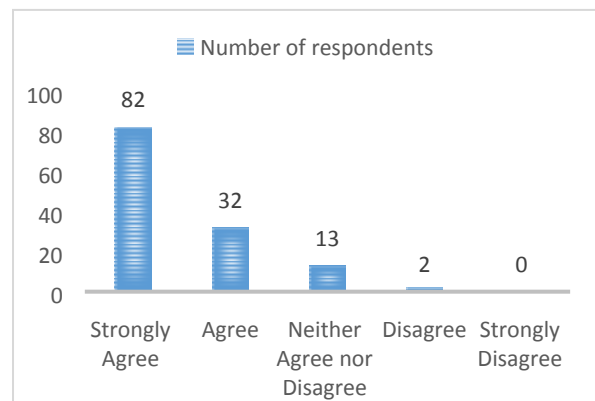
Reducing the impact of new developments on air quality



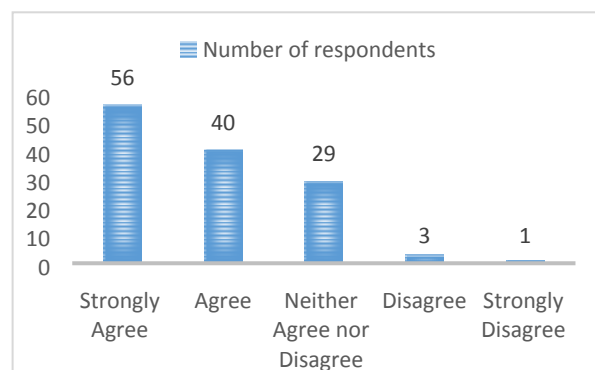
Ensuring enforcement of cleaner construction policies



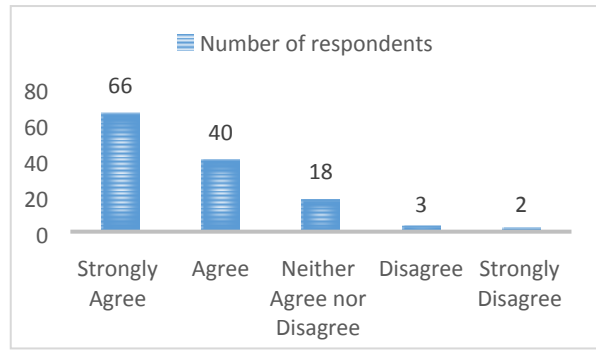
Mapping focus areas and air quality hotspots on planning GIS maps



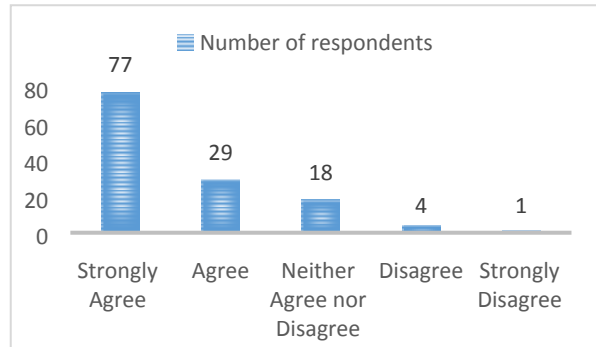
Enforcing CHP and biomass air quality policies



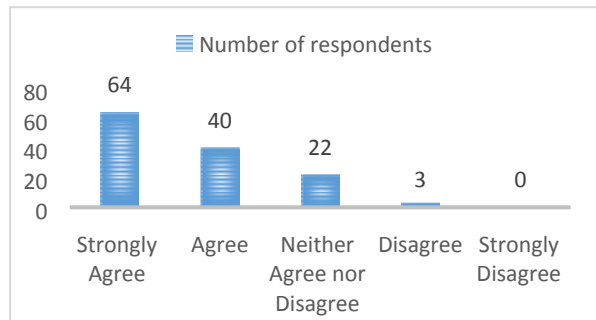
Enforcing air quality neutral policies



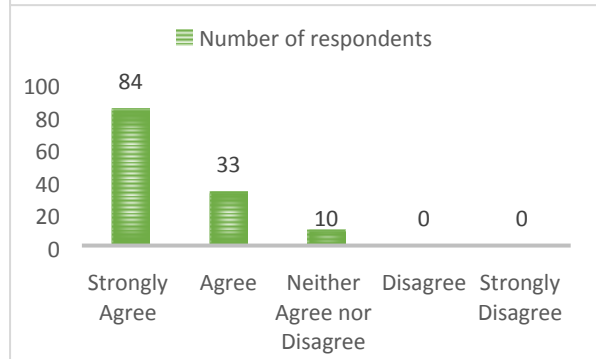
Ensuring that smoke control zones are fully promoted and enforced



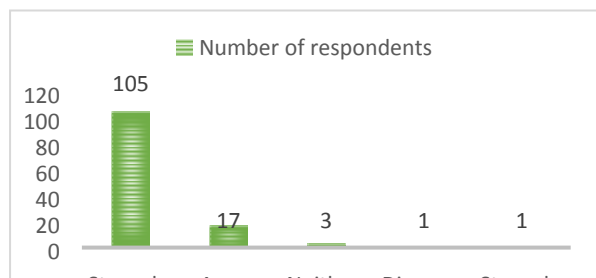
Promoting and delivering energy-efficient retrofitting projects in workplaces and homes



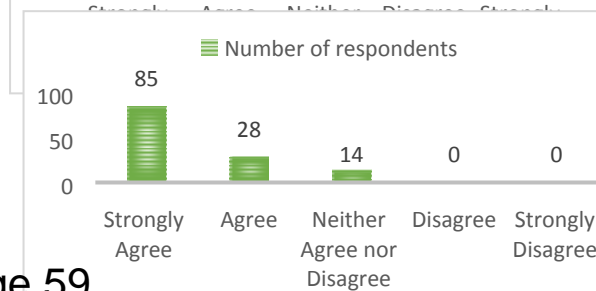
Working more closely with public health colleagues to tackle air quality



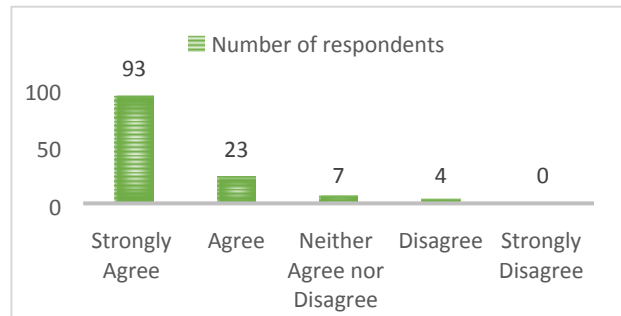
Working more closely with transport colleagues to tackle air quality



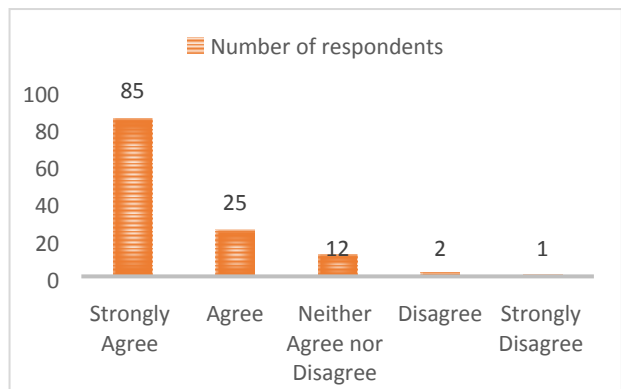
Promoting health and air quality initiatives



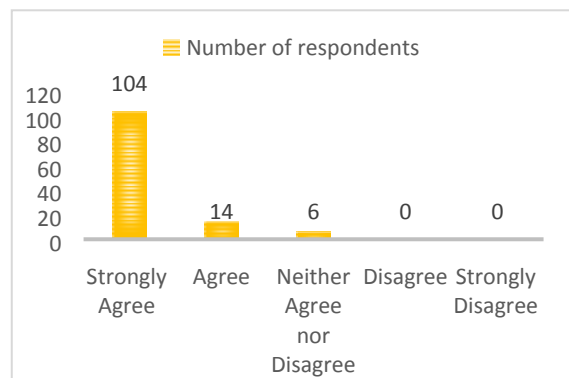
Reviewing air quality at schools by updating school travel plans and reviewing STARS accreditation in line with new initiatives



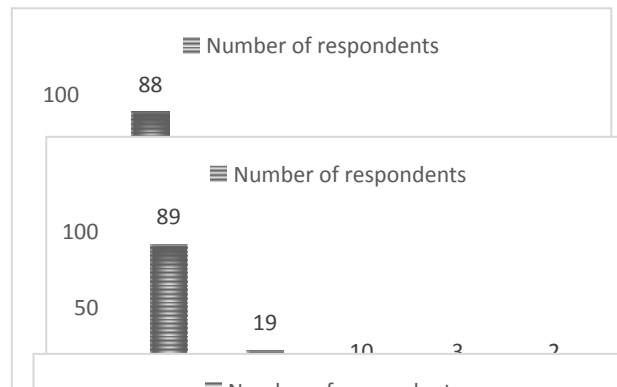
Updating Merton's procurement policies to include a requirement for suppliers with large fleets to have attained silver Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme (FORS) accreditation / EcoStars accreditation scheme



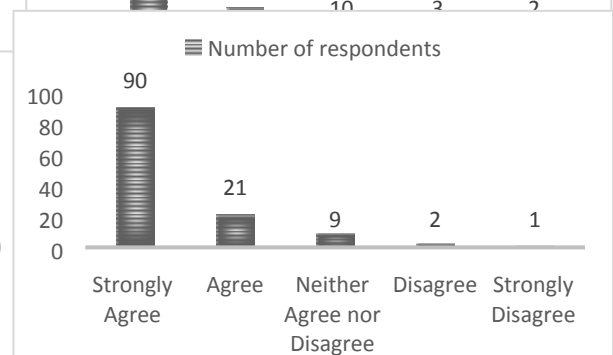
Ensuring Merton's own fleet of vehicles comply with the best possible emissions standards



Conducting a detailed assessment of traffic management solutions for air quality focus areas and pollution hotspots

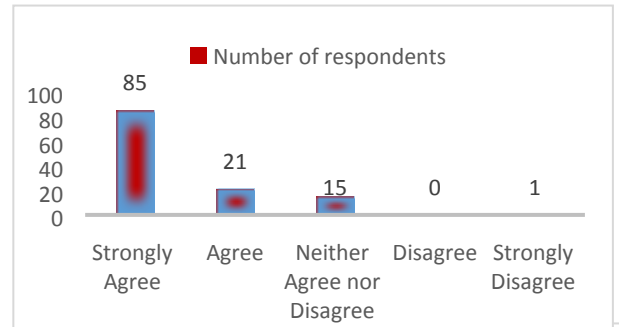


Considering possible implementation of CAZs in parts of the borough

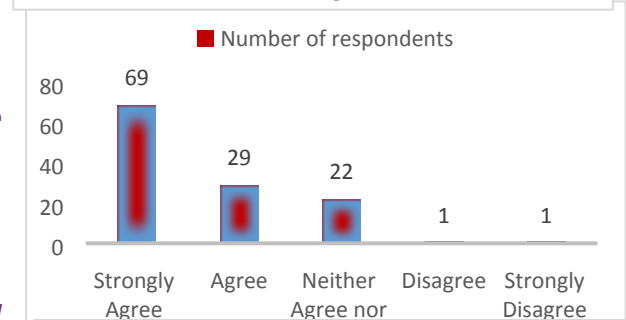


Undertaking audits of air quality in and around Merton schools subject to poor air quality

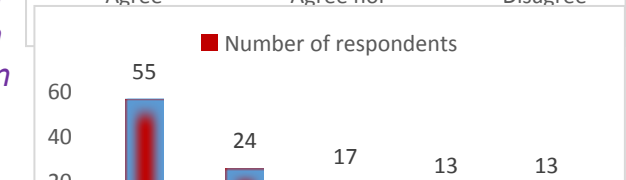
Formalising anti-idling enforcement



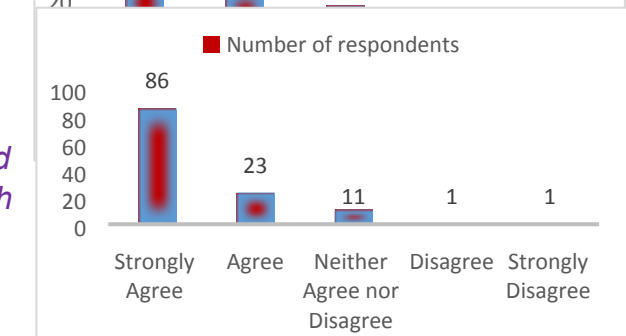
Expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure



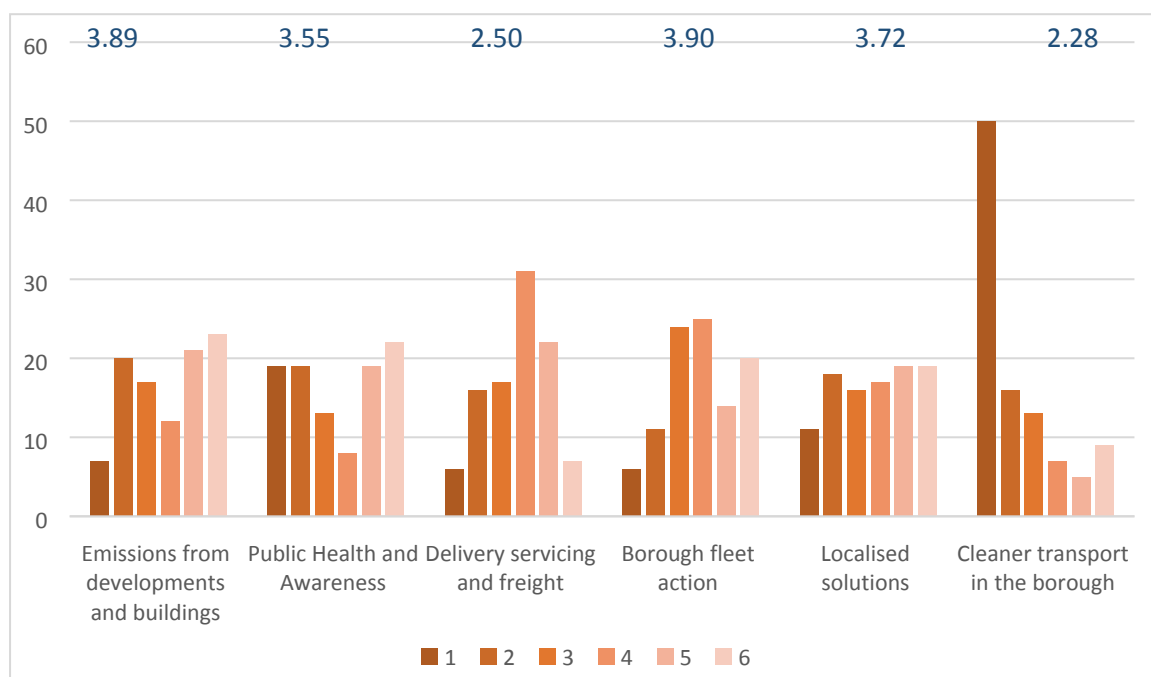
Extending use of an emissions-based parking levy for residential and business permits in Merton



Providing infrastructure to support walking and cycling across the borough



4. Ranking of categories in order of importance (1 being most important and 6 being least),



5. Here's what you said

- ULEZ
 - Expand to outer boroughs, including Merton (x3)
 - Have car-free days in the borough or certain areas
- Schools' air quality
 - Tackle engine idling and driving to school (x10)
 - More education on the subject (x2)
- Speeding
 - More enforcement of speed limits
 - Remove speed bumps
 - 20mph zones (x5)
- Parking
 - De-centralise parking in Wimbledon. Pedestrianise Broadway or only buses (x4)
 - Increase parking charges (x2)
 - Make a borough wide CPZ
 - Don't free parking at Christmas – offer sustainable incentives instead
- Transport
 - Have more electric bus routes (x8)
 - Encourage pedestrianism and cycling, i.e. improve cycling infrastructure etc. (x15)
 - Encourage electric taxis (x2)
 - Tackle engine idling (x9)
 - Traffic light re-timing or removal (x6)
 - Have more EV chargers (x2)
- Monitoring
 - Expand beyond the existing sites
- Planning



- Stop planning applications with poor air quality implications (x10)
- Smoke
 - Greater enforcement of smoke control areas (x4)
 - Ban bonfires (x3)
- Greenery
 - More trees / hedges / greenspaces (x12)
- Other ideas
 - Encouragement to stop people paving over their front gardens to make driveways (x2)
 - Offer a list of tradespeople who are reliable to help households with energy efficiency
 - Using street lighting for EV charging
 - Provide information to residents in "My Merton" on pollution at different speed limits when driving short distances



6. Group/Organisation responses

[Redacted]

Developing more green areas especially near hot spots

[Redacted]

ULEZ across borough, not just in hot spots. Strong enforcement of planning conditions on air quality. Strong anti-idling measures which are enforced and tied to a public awareness raising campaign. Widespread tree planting (get community involved) and investment in green infrastructure to improve public spaces and encourage walking. Encourage people not to pave over gardens. Improve cycle ways and walking trails and do so with sensitivity to wildlife and tranquillity e.g. low impact lighting. Clean air is a right for all, not just vulnerable groups. Get diesel vehicles off the roads as quickly as possible. Re-route HGVs around residential neighbourhoods. Walk to school initiatives. Thank you.

[Redacted]

1. Lobby the Mayor of London to include all London boroughs in the ULEZ. 2, Promote the installation of EV charging points in all public and private cart parks in the borough. 3, Work with the education department and Merton public health to raise awareness of the dangers of poor air quality to the very old and the very young. 4, Mount a publicity campaign on the issues of idling and publically prosecute offenders. 5, Replace all small LBM vehicles with electric and HGV's with CNG as they fall due for replacement. 6, Expand the Dig Merton programme to support locals in improving the borough's green infrastructure.

[Redacted]

We believe that in order for the diesel parking levy to have credibility, it must result in lowering air pollution and not simply be a tax grab. It needs to achieve a meaningful reduction in diesel car use and/or the income must be ring-fenced for air quality initiatives e.g. green infrastructure/ tree planting, enforcement of anti-idling, public awareness raising campaigns. We also want to see action on pollution hot spots given priority e.g. near schools/nurseries/playgrounds/hospitals and air quality requirements as part of planning permission, as well as mitigation measures near hot spots. There should be immediate action taken on traffic congestion hot spots and near schools identified as within 150 m of Merton's most dangerously polluted roads. We believe that a radical and ambitious plan for tackling air pollution as an urgent policy priority is required, given the extent and seriousness of its health and quality of life impacts. This should include: limiting the number of high polluting HGVs travelling in and out of the borough, electric vehicle strategy across London and beyond with appropriate infrastructure, greener and safer walking and cycling routes, strong and enforceable anti-idling measures with public awareness campaign. The local AQ strategy needs to be implemented as a priority in the shortest possible time frame, which includes working with TfL to switch to clean buses ASAP. Air pollution is a silent killer and needs to be treated by Merton Council as the health emergency that it is. Thank you.

[Redacted]

1. As three leading community organisations in Mitcham we welcome Merton's Air Quality Action Plan and the opportunity to propose further measures to improve air quality in the area. Air pollution is an issue which respects no boundaries and requires an area wide approach. We have come together to provide this broad perspective for

Mitcham.

2. Both Mitcham Cricket Green Community and Heritage and Mitcham Society have undertaken air quality monitoring in the area in collaboration with Friends of the Earth and Sustainable Merton. The results confirm that Mitcham's air quality is regularly in breach of World Health Organisation limits. The results for Cricket Green are summarised in our air quality blog and the Mitcham Society surveyed the previously pedestrianised stretch of London Road through Fair Green in June/July 2016 to get readings of 32.51 µg/m³, 31.03 µg/m³ and 31.23 µg/m³ at these points. These and other results have been collated on the Merton hotspots map. Mitcham Common, the grounds of The Canons and Park Place and many of Mitcham's Town Greens act as air quality reservoirs providing both areas of relatively low air pollution and trees and other natural methods for reducing particulates.

3. We welcome the intention to address air quality in Merton and the proposals to extend the Ultra Low Emission Zone to Merton. Nevertheless, we believe the draft Air Quality Action Plan lacks the ambition and measures necessary to address the scale of the problem facing the area.

4. We believe further measures are needed and these should include:

- Targets for improving air quality year on year to 2022
- A network of air quality monitoring stations – particulates and NOx – throughout the Mitcham area, including on Mitcham Common as well as along the roads that pass through it, with data made publicly available in a timely manner
- Zero emission or hydrogen buses on all routes through Mitcham Town Centre and its designation as a Low Emission Bus Zone
- A ban on heavy lorries running on Church Road between Lower Green West and Benedict Wharf as part of the measures to address “hot spots”
- Changed traffic flow at Lower Green West to remove the existing “roundabout” configuration and reconnect it to Lower Green East
- Improved pedestrian permeability in Mitcham Town Centre and Cricket Green – including enhanced pedestrian crossings and reduced crossing times
- A requirement in all travel plans for schools and new development to demonstrate how they will contribute to improvements in air quality, and a commitment from Merton Council to monitor and enforce these travel plans
- Investment in a behavioural change programme to raise awareness of individual actions to improve air quality
- Enforcement against idling cars and lorries which extends beyond any plans to act on idling outside schools
- Community consultation over the location of a network of well-designed electric vehicle charging points in Mitcham as an alternative to the current process whereby Merton Council submits planning applications to itself ahead of any community engagement
- Active programme of succession planting of trees and hedges throughout Mitcham to conserve and enhance tree cover, especially along major routes
- Stronger connections between Mitcham and the Wandle Trail and open spaces, including Willow Lane Industrial Estate
- Active promotion of Mitcham Common as a source of health and wellbeing with relatively better air quality including:
 - Promotion of healthy walks
 - Opening up the Ecology Centre as an affordable location for hosting community-led activity promoting health and well being
 - Management and planting along the fringes to filter particulates.

5. We look forward to contributing to monitoring, delivery and review of the Action