

## **An update from Stephen Hammond MP**

### **Save Wimbledon Police Station**

On Wednesday 7th February, I joined with Merton Conservative councillors to put forward a credible plan to save Wimbledon police station from closure at a Council meeting of all local councillors. Labour and Lib Dem councillors refused to back the plan

The plan is for Merton Council to buy the police station site from City Hall and then lease it back to the Mayor's Office for Police and Crime (MOPAC). This could be funded from Merton Council's capital programme underspend (£11million in the current year) and the council has £92 million of usable reserves.

### **Crossrail 2**

There is no confirmed progress on Crossrail 2 to report. However, I understand that Transport for London and the Government are continuing to resolve how the scheme might be funded.

I understand that a revised proposal might see the scheme built in phases.

### **Improving our High Streets**

At the last election, one of my key pledges was to ensure that improvements to our high streets and town centres are sympathetic to the wishes of residents.

Crossrail 2, the Council's Wimbledon Masterplan and the proposed Morden Regeneration should be an opportunity to achieve this, and I am working with the Future Merton scheme to bring forward a local plan later this year.

### **Save Merton Hall**

For months now residents and residents groups have been fighting plans to partially demolish Merton Hall on Kingston Road to make way for a pentecostal church. This is part of a freehold swap to move the Elim Pentecostal Church from the High Path Estate to make room for a new secondary school.

Thanks to the work of local residents, Merton Hall has been listed as an 'Asset of Community Value'. This gives a local group the chance to buy the hall and keep it in community use. Despite this, plans continue for demolition and transfer to Elim.

I recently met with the Secretary of State for Local Government to raise this issue, and to ask what options there are. I look forward to hearing back from him.

### **Motspur Park Post Office**

The owner of Ecklee on West Barnes Lane has sadly decided to stop offering Post Office services. However, I am working closely with Cllrs Brian and Gilli Lewis-Lavender to investigate alternative providers for the Post Office.

Brian and Gilli have met with Merton Council's Head of Library Services to raise the potential of the Library hosting some Post Office services. We have also heard that another shop in Motspur Park Village has applied to take up Post Office services – which is great news.

We are now working hard to ensure there is a minimal transition period between providers.

### **Get in touch**

You can keep up to date with my work locally and in Parliament on Twitter:

[www.twitter.com/s\\_hammond](https://www.twitter.com/s_hammond) or Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stephenhammond.net](https://www.facebook.com/stephenhammond.net)

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