

LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON	
	<u>NOTES OF MEETING</u>
	Subject: Morden Community Forum
	Date: 8th October 2015 Time: 19.15
Action Needed By:	
	<p>1. <u>Welcome and Introductions</u></p> <p>1.1 Cllr. Philip Jones welcomed everybody to the meeting.</p> <p>1.2 Approximately 24 residents attended, as well as 10 councillors, and officers from the council and its partners.</p>
	<p>2. <u>Morden Leisure Centre update</u></p> <p>2.1 Christine Parsloe, the Leisure and Culture Development Manager, at Merton Council provided an update on the proposed new Leisure Centre for Morden, which is on target to open on 1 January 2018.</p> <p>2.2 A number of consultants have been appointed to the design team for the project, including Gardiner and Theobald as the Quantity Surveyors and Sweett (UK) Ltd as the principal designer. The architects, structural engineers and remaining specialists required have been selected and are awaiting final council sign off this week. As the project progresses, the council will soon be starting the process to procure a construction company for the project.</p> <p>2.3 Consultation with residents about the plans continues through public meetings and newsletters.</p>
	<p>3. <u>Update from the Council Leader – Councillor Stephen Alambritis</u></p> <p>3.1 The Council continues to focus on protecting vulnerable adults and children.</p> <p>3.2 The freeze on Council Tax continues up to 2019, and those on Council Tax Benefits continue to receive the same levels of support.</p> <p>3.3 2,000 extra primary school places were created, and another 2,000 are now being created through primary school expansions.</p> <p>3.4 The Council is looking to save money through shared services with other local authorities. It is also seeking greater powers to build housing and affordable homes through devolution.</p> <p>3.5 Projects of note include the regeneration of Mitcham and Morden, Crossrail2 (coming to Wimbledon in 2030), and two new libraries proposed for West Barnes and Colliers Wood, which will be</p>

	<p>funded by private developers.</p> <p>3.6 Residents were encouraged to vote for Raynes Park in the Great British High Street Awards http://thegreatbritishhighstreet.co.uk/finalist-london</p> <p>3.7 Councillor Alambritis and St Helier ward councillors have both met with Circle Housing to voice concerns on behalf of residents about repairs and renovation.</p> <p>3.8 Asked whether he supports the campaign to keep St Helier Hospital open, Councillor Alambritis confirmed that he fully supports maintaining the hospital's services and is actively campaigning to save it.</p>
JF	<p>4. <u>Healthwatch Merton</u></p> <p>4.1 Jade Fairfax introduced herself as the new Information and Outreach officer for Healthwatch Merton, which is an independent consumer champion for health and social care issues.</p> <p>4.2 Over the past few months Healthwatch has worked on a number of projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GP access – consultation was carried out to obtain people's views on accessing GPs. A report was subsequently sent to Merton's Clinical Commissioning Group, recommending training for frontline staff, which is now being carried out. • Healthy High Street, Mitcham – Healthwatch spoke to residents in Mitcham about possible restrictions to fast food, alcohol and betting shops in the town centre. A report has been written on this, the outcome of which is awaited. • CAMHS – 7-17 year-olds and parents have been spoken to as part of a review of CAMHS, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. • General outreach work has been done with the homeless, primary schools and local communities • Healthwatch is also working on an Urgent Care event to get views on what works well. This will feed into the Clinical Commissioning Group's review of urgent care. <p>4.3 Jade agreed to pass on the suggestion of resurrecting a walk-in clinic at St George's Hospital to Merton Clinical Commissioning Group for its Urgent Care review.</p> <p>4.4 Residents welcomed Jade's initiatives, and suggested that My Merton magazine should explain and publicise the work of Healthwatch.</p>
	<p>5. <u>Morden Town Centre Update</u></p> <p>5.1 Paul McGarry, FutureMerton Manager, informed residents that the council has been awarded £42m by the Mayor of London,</p>

PM	<p>through the Housing Zones programme. This means that the design and planning process for the town centre regeneration can begin. The money is due to be received in April 2016.</p> <p>5.2 Consultation on the proposals has now begun. Residents can have their say on what they want to see in Morden by completing an online survey www.merton.gov.uk/moremorden.</p> <p>5.3 TfL is the highway authority for the town centre, so the council has put in a bid to them for £8m to improve roads and the traffic system in Morden. A decision on the bid will be made in December; if Merton is successful, the funding would be granted in April 2016.</p> <p>5.4 The council and TfL own most of the freehold in Morden Town Centre, therefore the two will form a joint venture to design Morden as one entity. They will work with building occupiers to generate a new plan for the buildings. Paul agreed to put a map on the council's website which indicates the land that Merton Council owns.</p> <p>5.5 Bus stops would remain on the high street, but options are being explored that would allow for buses to be parked elsewhere whilst drivers take breaks.</p> <p>5.6 Housing has not yet been designed for the scheme but through the Local Plan, there is capacity for 1,000 new homes, 40% of which would be affordable. Most of these new homes would be flats.</p> <p>5.7 The council will work with the NHS to establish the healthcare needs of a regenerated town centre. Community infrastructure as a whole will be looked at, including schools.</p>
	<p>6. <u>Litter and street cleaning</u></p> <p>6.1 Residents and councillors commended the council's waste team for the good job it is doing in keeping the borough's streets clean and dealing with litter and fly-tipping.</p> <p>6.2 Tony Gant, Cleansing Supervisor for the council, explained that Merton undertakes educational campaigns to encourage people to pick up litter and clean up after themselves. Enforcement is also carried out, with Fixed Penalty Notices for anyone caught littering.</p> <p>6.3 There is a rolling programme to clear drains and to clear leaves from pavements and roads.</p>
	<p>7. <u>Soapbox</u></p> <p>7.1 Residents are being encouraged to sign up to and support the campaign 'Merton Welcomes Refugees'. Further details about how to get involved and help can be found at https://www.facebook.com/Merton-Residents-Supporting-Refugees-</p>

SA	<p>1495108110801162/timeline/</p> <p>7.2 A resident asked for an update on the council's plans to introduce Dog Control Orders. Stephen Alambritis agreed to report back on the matter.</p> <p>7.3 Residents voiced continued concerns and reservations over the future of Merton Adult Education. Councillor Alambritis said that the service is being commissioned out to ensure it continues to be provided in the borough.</p>
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