

Licensing Committee

2nd February 2023

Merton's Night Time Strategy

Cllr Eleanor Stringer

Background

New Cabinet role for “Civic Pride”

- Bringing together political responsibility for areas that previously were separated
- Including Licensing and other regulatory services, local economy, culture, equalities, community safety which encompasses anti social behaviour and violence against women and girls

New administration are committed to supporting a thriving night-time economy, and doing so in a positive and collaborative way that works for local residents

Recognition that our town centres are changing

- Residents experiencing their local area more,
- Fewer commuters,
- Business needs are changing
- Greater focus on issues like women’s safety

What do we mean by the night time economy?

- This isn't just about night clubs - it's not even mostly about night clubs
- It's about everything that happens past 6pm, including:
 - how we use our neighbourhoods at night – for socialising, eating, sports and physical activity, shopping
 - who uses our neighbourhoods at night – residents, visitors, but also night workers and night commuters
 - understanding the benefits and the risks of supporting additional activity
- Night time economy varies substantially in different parts of the borough and all should be considered

Actions so far

- Applied for funding to develop winter pop up night market in Mitcham town centre (July 2022) – although the bid was unsuccessful looking to hire a market manager to develop parts of this ambition
- Night time women's safety project (began August 2022) - part of Home Office funded piece of work, with Night Time Economy Solutions looking at women's safety in Merton, Kingston, Richmond and Wandsworth (*more detail on later slide*).
- Invited Amy Lamé, Mayor of London's night czar and her team to walk around Mitcham and Wimbledon at night (October 2022)
- Half-day workshop (funded by GLA), December 2022 – bringing together key council departments to prepare the ground for developing a strategy
- Cabinet Member attended London's first London At Night Conference (January 2023)

Next steps

- Forming a working group led by Future Merton to develop a strategy, over the coming year.
- Gather data including, residents' views, mapping night workers, consulting with police and local businesses. Engagement and analysis is a large part of the work for example Wandsworth began work on theirs over a year ago
- Consultation will involve multiple groups and interested parties, including Licensing Committee and local residents

Licensing's role in the night time economy

- A licensing policy can provide a clear vision and can support the night time economy and therefore support the night time strategy
- The licensing policy promotes the 4 licensing objectives (The prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm) and it can bring about effective partnership working
- The licensing policy sets the right tone and together with the night time strategy will provide a framework for a vibrant and safe borough
- Careful collaborative work will ensure the two work hand in hand.
- The bigger piece of work is on envisioning what we want our neighbourhoods to look like at night, and then working out how we encourage this activity

Safer Streets Funding

Merton, Richmond, Kingston and Wandsworth completed a joint bid for funding and was successful.

Funding ends 31st March 2023 and there will be a showcase event with partners to look at the sustainability of the projects.

This has funded projects to ensure people feel safe on our streets with the theme around women and girls safety, changing cultures.

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- Boys to men training for professionals working with young men
 - Night time economy staff training to help them identify vulnerability and anti sexual harassment
 - Womens Night time economy strategy
 - Business Tool Kit
 - Male survey
 - Survivors focus groups
 - **Bystander Training for the Community** <https://youtu.be/esolkekD0o>

Night Time Economy's aspect of the Safer Streets project

- Night time economy staff training to help them identify vulnerability and anti sexual harassment
- Womens Night time economy strategy
- MOPAC Night Time economy charter
- Womens Safety Business tool kit
- Police are carrying out WAVE training (Welfare And Vulnerability Engagement)
- Ask for Angela

Summary

In summary the key ambition is to deliver a greater variety of options of evening use, while supporting night-workers and maintaining low crime levels

Appendix: Additional information on Violence against Women and Girls

What does Safer Merton do around VAWG?

Safer Merton continues to co-ordinate the partnership approach to respond to VAWG.

This includes:

- The management of the VAWG Strategic Board (quarterly meetings).
- Developing and delivering the annual VAWG Action Plan.
- Developed and published a new VAWG Strategy.
- Running the 3 weekly domestic violence MARAC (high risk case panel) meetings.
- Continuing to raise awareness of Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA) and VAWG across the Council, partnership, and community.
- Ensuring we meet policy and statutory requirements, specifically conducting Domestic Homicide Reviews (two active at present) and co-ordinating the implementation of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
- Womens safety

VAWG Strategy

Merton has launched its new Violence against women and girls strategy on 6th December.

This sets out what the borough will do to support anyone experiencing VAWG, domestic abuse, forced marriage and honour based violence, sexual violence, this also includes supporting men as victims.

The priorities are:

Partnership Objective 1: Raise awareness and coordinated partnership working

Partnership Objective 2: Prevent VAWG through early intervention

Partnership Objective 3: Support victims, survivors and their children

Partnership Objective 4: Hold perpetrators to account

Partnership Objective 5: Improve the safety of women and girls

<https://www.merton.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/crime-prevention-and-community-safety/vawg>

Type of Abuse	What does this mean?
Domestic abuse (including coercive control)	This is when a partner or family member has power and control over their victims and uses abuse to maintain it. Abuse can be physical, emotional, economic, psychological and/or sexual.
Rape and sexual violence	Rape is sex without consent. This means that rape isn't just people being physically forced into a sexual act, it also includes pressure that makes someone feel like they have no choice but to have sex or perform/receive a sexual act.
Female genital mutilation	This is the partial or total removal of external female genitalia for non medical reasons.
Early and Forced marriage	This is where one or both people do not (or in cases of people with learning disabilities or reduced capacity, cannot) consent to the marriage as they are pressurised, or abuse is used, to force them to do so.
So called "honour" based violence	This is abuse and violence which is carried out in order to protect or defend perceived "honour" of the family and/or community. We are clear that there is no honour in honour-based violence.
Faith-based abuse	This is when someone uses religion or faith to justify the abuse of another person, usually a child or vulnerable adult. It could be caused by the perpetrator's belief in witchcraft, spirit or demonic possession, ritual, or satanic abuse. It is not caused by religion or faith.
Sexual harassment	This is unwanted behaviour of a sexual nature which violates someone's dignity, makes someone feel intimidated, degraded, or humiliated and/or creates a hostile or offensive environment.
Stalking	This is a pattern of persistent and unwanted attention that makes someone feel pestered, scared, anxious, or harassed.
Modern Slavery	This is an umbrella term for human trafficking and servitude. It is used when somebody is forced or controlled to do something, and another person gains from this.
Prostitution and Sexual exploitation	This is where someone is being coerced or forced into selling sex or performing sexual acts. Victim/survivors may also be trafficked into prostitution. Children, young people, and vulnerable adults may also be sexually exploited and coerced into receiving or performing sexual acts. Abuse of children and adults can include sharing pornographic images and the use of technology.

White Ribbon Accreditation

The simple but vital mission behind White Ribbon Day is to prevent violence by men, against women and girls. Why? Because it is a long time coming that something needed to change. Change of long, established, and harmful behaviours around masculinity that perpetuated gender inequality and men's violence against women.

^P_{ad}^g_e The history behind choosing the date of 25 November was apparently to honour the three Mirabal sisters. They were three political activists from the Dominican Republic who were brutally murdered in 1960 by order of the country's ruler, Rafael Trujillo after opposing his dictatorship. He ordered their assassination on the 25 November.

White Ribbon

We can all make a difference – but sometimes we are not always sure what to do or where to start. White Ribbon Day offers men and women specific ways of making a difference for this important movement. You can:

Make the White Ribbon Promise: Please go online and make the promise - encourage others to do the same – this promise is for all men **to never use, excuse or remain silent about men's violence against women.** By doing so, you're becoming part of this wider movement to end violence.

<https://www.whiteribbon.org.uk/promise>

WHITE RIBBON DAY 2022
#TheGoal

ALLY CARING EMPATHETIC COURAGEOUS GENTLE
RESILIENT RELIABLE HOPEFUL PRINCIPLED REFLECTIVE SUPPORTIVE

UNITE FOR WHITE RIBBON DAY 2022

All men can join the team to end violence against women and girls – that's #TheGoal
Whether you're a football fan or not, make the White Ribbon Promise today.

WHITE RIBBON .ORG.UK

White Ribbon UK is the working name of White Ribbon Campaign Ltd, a registered charity in England and Wales (No. 123574) and a company limited by guarantee (No. 06487303)

QR code

Any Questions

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