

Wimbledon Community Forum  
22 March 2017  
Chair's Report

The meeting was held at the Mansel Road Community Centre, and chaired by Councillor James Holmes. Approximately 30 residents attended, as well as five other Merton Councillors, and officers from the council and its partners. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, introducing the councillors present at the meeting.

### **Choose Wisely – Merton Clinical Commissioning Group**

Abbas Mirza from Merton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) introduced the Choose Wisely programme. The presentation can be found on the Council website at <http://www.merton.gov.uk/community-living/communityforums/wimbledoncommunityforum.htm>

Merton CCG has challenging financial savings to achieve of £13m in 2017/18 so is reviewing the provision of services in a number of areas:

- Prescriptions for vitamin supplements and self-medication
- Prescriptions for gluten free foods
- IVF treatment
- Supporting patients to be more surgery ready with increased referrals to stop smoking and weight management services

Abbas has met with over 40 local community groups to encourage people to feed in their views. Residents can also complete a survey either on paper or online. The feedback to date will be considered by the CCG Governing Body on 23 March and if they decide to proceed with any of these proposals there will be a full consultation. The papers for the meeting can be found at <http://www.mertonccg.nhs.uk/about-us/Our-Governing-Body/Pages/Governing-Body-meetings.aspx>

In response to questions Abbas said that with changing demographics and more long term conditions the NHS will need to reflect on the financial challenges this creates. The CCG has also looked into voucher schemes that are run elsewhere but it seems that that this sort of scheme might be more expensive. Colleagues are working with local councils, like Merton, to improve the integration between health and social care services. Primary care services do a range of risk assessments including obesity but CCGs are working on ways to improve coordination.

A number of people have raised the issue of procurement during the consultation and this is being considered but in an organisation the size of the NHS this can be difficult to change. Residents encouraged the CCGs to work together and with NHS England to save money on procurement and processes rather than by cutting services.

Abbas encouraged residents to away copies of the consultation and pass them on to friends and neighbours.

### **Leonie Cooper, London Assembly Member for Merton and Wandsworth**

Leonie thanked residents for their patience on a difficult day for London.

Since the election in May 2016 Leonie has taken on a number of roles within the Assembly as part of the role of scrutinising the work of the Mayor and Greater London Authority.

These include:

- Chair of the Environment Committee
- Member of Housing; Budget and Performance; and Audit Committees
- Member of London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority, alongside Councillors Moulton and Whelton from Merton.

In addition Leonie undertook a member led investigation into biodiversity in new housing developments. This investigation looked at how considering biodiversity as part of the design process could result in benefits to nature, people and the developers. Creating homes that were attractive places that people want to move into can improve the impact of increasing housing density. Leonie is hopeful this work will be used by the Mayor in putting together the new London Plan. The new London Plan will be consulted on in the autumn.

The Environment Committee has been looking into issues including air quality; Heathrow expansion; noise pollution from tube trains; and flooding and sewage issues with Thames Water. The revised Crossrail 2 business case has been submitted to Government. Leonie is hoping to see revised plans for Wimbledon and a new station in Tooting preferred over Balham to ease congestion on the Northern Line. Leonie also said that today's events highlighted the case that has already been made to Government that London needs more resources for policing because of the concentration of national and international targets.

In response to questions Leonie agreed that the current plans to extend the Ultra-Low Emission Zone do not provide enough benefits to south London as the South Circular is not that far south of the Thames, making the new zone asymmetrical. Leonie encourage residents to respond to the consultation taking place later in 2017. Transport for London consultations can be found at <https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/> and other GLA consultations at <http://talklondon.london.gov.uk/>. Leonie welcomed the news that new zero emission taxis will be available by the end of 2017 and encouraged everyone to lobby government to support a diesel scrappage scheme. New hybrid buses are being rolled out first on routes that travel through hot-spot areas, like the 93 through Putney, but the whole fleet will be improved eventually.

Congestion is a serious health issue and there is large scale development going on across London so there will need to be large scale investment in the transport network like Crossrail 2 and Tramlink extensions. The Tramlink extension between South Wimbledon and Sutton is still in the Transport for London business plan but the current sticking point is negotiations between TfL and Sutton Council about their contributions to the capital costs.

The Mayor has specific planning roles for tall buildings and large scale developments and a budget of over £3billion to support housing development. Some of this funding is being spent on the London Living Rent scheme (<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/housing-and-land/renting/london-living-rent>) and some to redevelop TfL London. Changes in the funding regime for Housing Associations means they are more reliant on private capital and therefore need to include more for-sale properties in their developments.

Leonie was not aware of the current work of the London Health Partnership but is happy to follow up on this.

The repeated failings of the traffic lights in South Wimbledon have been raised with TfL but they have not provided a satisfactory response to date. Councillor Katy Neep said that TfL reported a part was due to be replaced but the work was delayed and has not yet been rescheduled.

### **Wimbledon Masterplan**

Paul McGarry, Head of Future Merton at Merton Council, updated the meeting on the development of a Masterplan for Wimbledon. 222 people had attended the three workshops in January and February, providing more than 2000 responses to the questions and 2050 votes in 16 polls. More information and the top 10 issues identified from the workshops was made available in hand-outs that can be found at

<http://www.merton.gov.uk/futurewimbledon>.

A full report on the workshops will be made available by the end of April. The plan is to produce a draft Masterplan in June or July to coincide with the next phase of plans from Crossrail 2.

In response to questions Paul said that they would be engaging with young people by working with school councils and through social media. Merton Council is funding the Masterplan work and the 15 year plan should be adopted by the end of 2017 but would be incorporated into the borough Local Plan due to be renewed in 2018. In response to a question about protecting heritage in residential areas Paul said that South Park Gardens was not part of the town centre masterplan; but the issue would be passed to the conservation officer to consider.

### **Future of South Wimbledon**

Andrew Boyce explained that residents in South Wimbledon are coming together to develop a South Wimbledon Enhancement Plan. The plan is based on a similar approach in Raynes Park and involves residents identifying local solutions and creating a list of projects that can be supported. A group of residents, supported by Councillor Katy Neep and Paul McGarry, has already met in January and February; the next meeting is scheduled for 1 April. The motion discussed at the December meeting of the Wimbledon Community Forum is due to be considered at the next Council meeting on 12 April.

### **Soapbox**

Helen Alexander-Allen asked residents to support the No to Wheelies campaign. This is a campaign by residents to persuade Merton Council and their contractor, Veolia, to not go ahead with the roll out of wheelie bins and fortnightly collections across the borough. Instead the campaign has suggested alternative arrangements involving smaller, less obtrusive bins and weekly collections. More information is available at

<http://www.nowheeliesplease-merton.org.uk/>

A resident asked about access to toilet facilities in Wimbledon Library, and this will be taken up with the Library staff.

*Response from Wimbledon Library provided following the meeting:*

Wimbledon Library did have a public toilet but there were too many incidents of vandalism so the facility had to be locked. Customers are directed to nearby pubs, restaurants and Elys but customers can use the locked disabled toilet in an emergency. There are two extra toilets that are open during events after hours. For the coffee shop, if there are less than 12 seats there is no requirement to provide a toilet facility, and the coffee shop at Wimbledon Library provides 9 seats.

A resident asked if the 20mph speed restriction in central Wimbledon to be scrapped as it serves no purpose. Paul McGarry agreed that the police wouldn't enforce the reduced limit and as this is a main road it is not appropriate to install physical traffic calming measures. Paul agreed to check with colleagues about the signage in the zone.

**Date of future meetings:**

Wednesday 21 June 2017 at Wimbledon Arts Space

Thursday 28 September 2017 at Wimbledon Arts Space

Tuesday 5 December 2017 at Wimbledon Methodist Church

Thursday 1 March 2018 at Wimbledon Arts Space