



Local election 2018 – questions for Cricket Green candidates

Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage – the local civic society for this part of Merton – asked each of the candidates standing for election in Cricket Green ward a series of questions. The unedited responses are below.

Where a long response is provided to a question it is completed at the bottom.

	Merton Conservatives [Responses for all three candidates]	Democrat and Veterans Party [Single candidate standing]	Merton Greens [Single candidate standing]	Merton Labour [Responses for all three candidates except where indicated]	Merton Liberal Democrats [Responses for Vincent Bolt (VB) & Guillian Castle (GC). No response from Claire Bolt]
<p>Q1 What is your most important priority for improving the quality of life in Cricket Green?</p>	<p>To maintain the new town centre and ensure it is cleaned regularly. Street scene and perspective is an important part of a community. Heritage is one of the main selling points to attract visitors along the corridor from Merton Priory to the Canons.</p>	<p>“We won’t have a society if we destroy the environment” Margaret Mead Mucky Merton must go! <i>OUR ENVIRONMENT CAN HAVE A DIRECT INFLUENCE ON OUR HEALTH AND WELL BEING</i></p> <p>How the environment can impact you</p> <p>1. The field of mind-body studies includes research on the relationship between our surroundings and our health. Studies show that a healthy and pleasing environment can do more than simply improve your mood--it can actually affect your immune system and physical health. So a</p>	<p>My priority for improving the quality of life in Cricket Green is to ensure that people have access to public spaces that are free from high levels of polluting emissions, not only from motor vehicles, but also from forms of industrial pollution. These issues affect the health and well-being of us all, and should be treated with greater urgency than is currently the case. If elected, the Green Party will fight for Merton to be included in the Mayor’s new Ultra Low Emission Zone, which will radically reduce harmful pollution levels in the borough. Our children are especially vulnerable, since the</p>	<p>This is a difficult question to answer. Our immediate thoughts fell to the redevelopment of the Burn Bullock and White Hart. However, after much thought we agreed the need to keep Cricket Green safe was our number one priority, and that to do that we would campaign against further cuts to local policing and work with the council in order to stop the rise in violent crime, and continue to take action against street drinking and anti-social behaviour.</p>	<p>VB - I believe the key priority is more decent, affordable housing with the development of appropriate services and encouragement of local enterprises. The centrepiece of Merton Liberal Democrats’ manifesto is our commitment to fight for at least 50% affordable housing in large developments, take action to investigate empty homes and where appropriate, use Council powers to bring them back into use, and prosecute rogue landlords that lodge tenants in unsafe properties. This must be done with the full engagement of local communities. We would also introduce a new “schools bonus”, requiring developers to pay into a</p>

		<p>better environment can have an effect on your life span 2. The environment can facilitate or discourage interactions among people (and the subsequent benefits of social support). 3. The environment can influence peoples' behaviour and motivation to ac e.g. to put litter in bin 4. The environment can influence mood e.g. depression 5. Stress is an important medical consideration, and creating an environment that reduces stress is a key piece of improving health outcomes.</p> <p>Rubbish collection and Keeping Merton Tidy The London Borough of Merton is part of the South London Waste Partnership which is made up of four London Boroughs: Croydon, Kingston, Merton and Sutton. It is an out sourcing contract aimed at saving money for the Boroughs with a French company Veolia. The contract started on 1st April 2017 with Veolia and are responsible for delivering as well as an 'as-is' collection service in Merton.</p> <p>A new service will be introduced in Merton and Croydon in October 2018 and Kingston in April 2019. Labour and Merton council have also gone against its 2014 pledge to keep our weekly rubbish collection when they introduce compulsory wheelie bins, with a fortnightly collection, with the elderly and disabled most likely to struggle. Merton can provide assistance for people with difficulty and residents need to know. There has been no public consultation.</p> <p>Veolia are managing recycling and waste collections, street cleansing, commercial waste, recycle material sales, winter maintenance and vehicle management for one</p>	<p>potential damage to their lungs is permanent and life-limiting. Therefore, we will close streets to traffic outside all primary schools at pick-up and drop-off time - with an exception for people living with disabilities.</p>		<p>special fund when they get planning permission to give our local schools a much-needed additional resource to support children's learning.</p> <p>GC - It's vital to encourage a strong sense of community for the people who live in Mitcham and the people who will want to live here in the future. Housing is the bedrock ensuring communities and families feel a strong sense of home and security to be connected to their communities. This is why Merton Liberal Democrats' are committed to advocating for 50% affordable housing in large developments, take action on empty homes and where appropriate, use Council powers to bring them back into use, and prosecute rogue landlords that lodge tenants in unsafe properties.</p> <p>It's vital local resident's ideas are taken into account in the future planning of housing and community assets like schools and leisure activities to support people living here. We would also introduce a new "schools bonus", requiring developers to pay into a special fund when they get planning permission to give our local schools a much-needed additional resource to support children's learning.</p>
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		million residents over the four London boroughs with the aim of saving millions of pounds. It is not working. [continued at end]			
Q2 Do you support the Cricket Green Charter and how will you use it in your work for Cricket Green Ward?	Most of it. We have concerns about the viability of the island site. Any development must be sustainable. It would be difficult for the local community to produce the revenue stream alone. There is a need to get more visitors to cover this. There is an underused library which small amounts of levered in money it could quite easily be used for this function. This would also lengthen the retail offer towards the Swan/Renshaws Corner.	<p>Character and context Yes I support this charter and will ensure that planning to include the following policies</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Policy C13 of the Core Strategy 2. Policy C14 of the core strategy 3. Policy DM D2 which states: <p>"Proposals for all development will be expected to meet all the following criteria: Relate positively and appropriately to the siting, rhythm, scale, density, proportions, height, materials and massing of surrounding buildings and existing street patterns, historic context, urban layout and landscape features of the surrounding area'</p> <p>Open Spaces Working as a team to create policies to protect and decide use of open spaces and pond protection. Keeping cricket at Cricket green is a must. Quality policy planning to be monitored and kept relevant with any changes to support the Design Code, as mentioned, in your documents, which supports new residential development based on street houses rather than flats or blocks.</p> <p>Lighting Sensitive lighting and attractive nightscape to be respected but also research and costing could be done to restore lights more in character with the conservation status.</p> <p>Activities We could have more cultural activities e.g. plays as well as</p>	Merton Green Party respects the Cricket Green Charter, which is to be applauded for its ambition and clarity, and for reflecting the views of residents. I will use it to guide my actions as much as I can.	We think that the Charter is an excellent document that articulates a clear vision of how future policy making should contribute to the area. If elected, we will use it as an aide-memoir of things to consider when deliberating over future policies and decisions that affect the area. On a personal note, as a member of the Co-operative Party I am particularly keen on the idea of "community ownership" mentioned in point 21.	<p>VB - I do support the Cricket Green Charter. Merton Liberal Democrats are committed to the creation of Neighbourhood Plans to give people real control over development in their area, by turning residents' views into planning rules. This approach would build on community efforts to develop the Cricket Green Charter and ensure that Merton Council acts in the interests of all residents in the decisions it takes.</p> <p>GC - In short – yes! Expanding on the previous point about local resident's views - Merton Liberal Democrats would like to put in place Neighbourhood Plans so locals have real control over development in their area. This would then translate into planning rules. This would ensure elements of the Cricket Green Charter and residents views are taken into account more effectively.</p>

		<p>sporting competitions at the Cannons. There are probably a great deal of existing events taking place that I am unaware of and it will be good to get familiar with all current activities.</p>			
<p>Q3 How will you demonstrate your commitment to protecting Mitcham Cricket Green Conservation Area and its environs?</p>	<p>I think we all have credentials for this. Over the years I have championed Mitcham Cricket Green and will in future.</p>	<p>By ensuring that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The planning committee keeps to their policies on conservation areas 2. Green belt status is explored 3. Listed building status for Mitcham Cricket Green Clubhouse and pavilions is explored 4. The environment is clean and tidy 5. Any changes are empathetic with the area and its character 6. We fight anything that would be detrimental to the area <p>These are suggestions, I am sure that people will come up with better ideas to protect the core values.</p>	<p>I would encourage all residents of Cricket Green and its environs to take part in the democratic process at local and national levels, and thereby gain a greater sense of ownership in their environment. In addition, I would fight for greater investment in youth services in Merton, which have fallen by 25% since 2011, and would encourage a greater variety of businesses to come to the area e.g. different types of restaurants and a cinema. Overall, I would try to help all residents to feel part of a community that respects the investments of the past, and ensures a safe environment and healthy income streams now and for the future.</p>	<p>The clearest commitment to this cause is that two of Merton Labour Group's six pledges for Merton directly contribute to it: delivering a cleaner greener borough, and keeping our neighbourhoods safe. Beyond that, all three of us commit to taking a keen interest in any and all planning applications in the area.</p>	<p>VB - Clearly, development in the Conservation Area and its environs must respect and enhance the existing environment. Our commitment to ensure community involvement in the development of Neighbourhood Plans will be a key step to achieve this.</p> <p>GC - Development in the Conservation Area should respect and add value in the long-term to the area and the life of the people who live here. Our commitment to ensure community involvement in the development of Neighbourhood Plans will be vital in this.</p> <p>We recognise there are many areas that would benefit from this approach such as plans for the pubs currently sitting in disuse, extensive housing plans and of the course the cricket club.</p>
<p>Q4 What will you do to help secure a long term future for Mitcham Cricket Club and its pavilion?</p>	<p>This is an essential heritage site. I hope the management will want to work with us to speak to the County and National organisations as well as lottery funding to enhance the facility. This has to be a partnership. The council cannot do it on it's own.</p>	<p>The most important fact here is to consider the ownership of the Cricket Club. If the owner is compliant with any plans for the secured long term future of the club</p> <p>It could be protected under listed Building Status with Heritage England. This is one way to guarantee that the building will not be used for any other purpose or demolished. If this was the case then listed status would have to be discussed, to identify which group the club will be considered appropriate then an application made to Historic England. I would gladly help with any application or</p>	<p>If elected, I would offer all the support that I can to ensuring the long-term future of Mitcham Cricket Club and its pavilion. It is a unique and wonderful institution. I am sure that there are many members and supporters who know the ins and outs of the institution's needs far better than I. Thus I would look to them for guidance.</p>	<p>If elected, we will make the case for any redevelopment – of the site of the cricket club – to include an affordable and secure home for the cricket club itself. We are all also more than happy to meet with members of the committee to discuss the issue and see how we can help further.</p>	<p>VB - The cricket green is a key part of Merton's history - one that must be protected, with the story more effectively told. Merton Liberal Democrats are committed to build on Merton's success in the London Borough of Culture competition and work with local groups to attract funding to promote our heritage and encourage visitors. We want to support local groups, charities and businesses to come together to bring our community together and to stimulate local enterprises and culture. As a council member, I would support community efforts to preserve the pavilion and restore the Burn Bullock, so that</p>

		<p>any other problems to overcome including meeting with its current owner and discuss any issues.</p> <p>It is vital that the council takes its responsibilities not to promote the erosion of what should be treasured by the community and protect this building by any means possible.</p>			<p>both can become year-round community assets.</p> <p>GC - The cricket green is a key part of Merton's history – it should be protected and it could be an important hub for the community to feel proud of. Personally, I knew nothing about it when moving here and I have a partner who is cricket mad! However, it's clearly something to be proud of. Thinking about things like Dulwich and how their football club has become a source of local pride, attracting visitors and investment, the cricket club could be far more effectively utilised for Mitcham.</p> <p>Merton Liberal Democrats would build on Merton's success in the London Borough of Culture competition and work with local groups to attract funding to promote our heritage and encourage visitors. We believe there are opportunities in connecting local groups, charities and businesses to encourage local enterprises and culture.</p>
<p>Q5 What are your priorities for Merton's new Local Plan?</p>	<p>I am glad you asked this. I have read it again. I have experience of Sutton's Local/Core plan after looking at it regarding St Helier Hospital. On a second look Merton's plan does not have the dynamism of Sutton's. The development of the old Sutton Hospital site as a centre for Medical Excellence by encouraging spin out companies from Southern Universities, seems superb to me. I see no long term planning like this in the Merton document. Page 9 "Merton is predominantly residential in character 42%".</p>	<p>To have in place policies to present to the council for each issue to include this statement and to further any other policies working together.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To speed up development to plans already passed and approved as boards are unsightly 2. To protect designated sites and all trees plants and wild life. <p>I looked on your web site and I have read your concerns and I in agreement' I am willing to follow your lead and guidance and will help in any way that I can. There is not a lot to be discussed on the plan as it has already been done but any objections and changes that your committee sees fit I will support.</p>	<p>The New Local Plan affects Cricket Green with the proposed building of residential and mixed use amenities such as nursing homes and schools at the sites of the Wilson Hospital, Worsfold House/Chapel Orchard, and Birches Close. I welcome much-needed redevelopment, and I have a particular interest in the issues listed in: https://www2.merton.gov.uk/merton_sites_and_policies_part_ii_mitcham_jul14.pdf. In particular, I do not want any of the redevelopments to force people to relocate. As the Cricket Green Charter states, Cricket Green wants 'high quality modern development while remaining an affordable</p>	<p>As you are no doubt aware, the consultation period for the plan closed in January. It would be remiss to offer priorities until we have had the opportunity to read either resident's responses or a draft of the plan. Once we have done so, we will of course be more than happy to discuss our thoughts.</p>	<p>VB - Currently the role of the public in Merton seems very limited, but the development of the new Local Plan is an opportunity to change this. The provision of more affordable homes is a key priority for Merton Liberal Democrats, needed to overcome the failure of the Labour-controlled Council to meet relevant affordable housing targets in recent years. It will be important that new infrastructure, for example, school and GP provision, should reflect significant development and population change. More emphasis should be placed on street design to encourage cycling and walking and to discourage rat-running (the proposal to limit access to certain streets will only increase</p>

	<p>This seems to me an unambitious resignation to the effect that we are a dormitory town.</p> <p>4.7 Heritage more comments on Wimbledon than Mitcham & Morden. Wimbledon is the main commercial centre, and will always be, but even this has been let slip by the present administration.</p> <p>4.8 Merton Priory is mentioned.</p> <p>5.17 Resignation to accept "although all aspects of regeneration are suffering development in marginal areas- economically and geographically will be most affected". This is further resignation. Other local boroughs have fared much better. There is so little dynamism; only resignation to accept the status quo.</p> <p>6.6 Great ideas, little vision to deliver.</p> <p>Page 23 Good ideas, little action, very few productivity gains and higher paid employment; even Wimbledon is falling behind neighbours.</p> <p>Page 34 Provide new homes and infrastructure in Merton Town Centres. Not delivered and no prospect.</p> <p>Diverse long term economic growth not delivered and no prospect.</p> <p>Page 51-55 Mitcham.</p>	<p>Therefore I am going to concentrate on the work that needs to be done in order to restore the area as soon as possible. Any work that I can see that needs doing and I have mentioned has been gathered by pure research. If anything is different then this action plan can be modified. The plan is just a rough idea of what I can gather needs to be done that can restore some sort of order to the area. I am sure you are all far more knowledgeable and I will take all your concerns into consideration in order to get a relevant action plan. So this plan is a rough outline and example of what could be done. I understand you have 14 sites that you have listed with particular developments or are conservative opportunities. These can be brought into the plan</p> <p>This first item is a matter of priority:</p> <p>Burn Bullock, White Hart, Mitcham Cricket Club and The Windmill</p> <p>First ownership of the White Hart, Burn and Bullock, Cricket Club and the Windmill Pub needs to be addressed. I gather are all owned by the same person. Therefore vigilance has to be with any selling or planning on said properties. These are significant buildings within the conservation area. The Windmill is open as a public house and the Cricket Club is a vibrant cricket club both are a going concern and both need to be protected. The Burn and Bullock and the White Hart have people living in them but are not going concerns and are both deteriorating and of no use to the public which is their current use according to planning.</p> <p>We should arrange a meeting with</p>	<p>place to live'. Moreover, being a leaseholder, my recent experiences with Clarion and United Living, and the tactics that they employ to exploit those without a voice, have made me determined to help others to fight the kinds of unreasonable demands that my neighbours and I have been and continue to be faced with. Further to this, Merton Green Party believes that the needs of pedestrians and cyclists are often treated as secondary to those of drivers, and I would help to ensure that their voices are heard in the planning stages of any redevelopment. Indeed, we would like to develop the 'Walking' section of the Charter by including people who travel sustainably and with varying abilities, helping them to use the area by bicycle, mobility scooter or other forms of sustainable travel, and aiding the fight against poor air quality.</p>		<p>congestion), and we have long supported a default 20mph speed limit on residential roads (with communities able to "opt out").</p> <p>GC - Development of the new Local Plan is an opportunity to ensure local residents views are taken into account more effectively ensuring plans work for the people who actually live here. Again, focusing on affordable housing and the infrastructure that supports it will be a key issue.</p>
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	<p>There has been a lot of development in the town centre. Housing planned for Eastfields and Ravensbury. Eastfields new station delivered under the Conservative administration of 2006/10 as was the new library in Pollards Hill.</p> <p>Mitcham best for small shops rather than large chains, except for food which it is essential that residents have access to good quality food at a reasonable price.</p>	<p>the owner to establish the intentions as to the long term plans for all the properties. Are the plans to sell or would they be happy to rent. If they want to sell then we need to set guidelines as to how we are involved as concerned residents and guardians of the conservation area. First we need to establish why a sale is preferable to renting. If there is a solution we should try and find one. For example too much work needs doing to the buildings etc. We could explore grants, investors and how much the council will help etc. This might have to be done even in the event of renting. With renting to commercial clients the company who decides to do so may do renovations to the buildings themselves or indeed offer to purchase the property.</p> <p>In any case we need to be kept informed of any prospective sales and the intentions of buyers or renters. They may be open to offers of assistance as the Burn and Bullock and The White Hart have been closed for a long time and does nothing for the vibrancy of the area and is adding to its deterioration. Once these are established plans can be made.</p> <p>[continued at end]</p>			
<p>Q6 How do you think the development of the Wilson Hospital and its grounds can best respect the historic site and provide for the needs of the local community?</p>	<p>The present population of Mitcham and indeed Morden and Wimbledon is very transitory. Residents come and go in six months. Rented rather than ownership seems to be very prevalent. Having said that a large part of the community live-in owner occupation. The number of doctors' surgeries seems to be lacking particularly in the Longthornton and Pollards</p>	<p>I have read and noted the aspects that you would like to keep to retain its historic attributes and also the negative aspects as outlined in your plan. I am in support. This information has been taken off the internet. Despite phoning CCG I am still waiting confirmation of use.</p> <p>The council and CCG together with Merton council have planned for a care centre at the hospital. Benefits to the residents:</p> <p>a) We need more care in the</p>	<p>See 5</p>	<p>Any development of the Wilson Hospital should both maintain and improve the health service delivered to local residents whilst keeping the historic frontage of the building.</p>	<p>VB - Merton Liberal Democrats campaigned against the closure of the walk-in centre at Wilson Hospital, and believe that the replacement GP Access Hubs doesn't meet the same need. Regarding the site, I think it is important to retain and enhance the classical frontage and other original elements of the locally listed building and preserve and increase the green space. Consideration should be given for off-road access and a drop-off point to Cranmer School to ease</p>

	<p>Hill area. An excellent medical facility on the Wilson site would be a great asset to the community. I became involved with this hospital in 2009 and understand from those conversations talk about re-development had been going on for years. This needs expediting.</p> <p>The design is always going to be controversial. The public good has to be considered. There are many examples of joining historic buildings to new developments, the Guild Hall in London perhaps one of the most famous. Looking at The Nelson Hospital which is perhaps a local example of co-joining modern and historic buildings. Tolworth hospital has been re-built and is an excellent example of what we should be striving for in services. This does not have the historic baggage. The Wilson will be a priority as local residents need the services that can be developed there with a more fuel efficient building and excellent local services.</p>	<p>community. With the closure of the Wilsons Health Centre it has placed a great deal of pressure on existing health care providers. Appointments are really hard to get and have a time restriction and there are more residential building being erected and planned. So a care centre is very welcomed and needed.</p> <p>b) The plan is going to retain Mental Health at the centre.</p> <p>c) Services need to be moved from Birches House and could move to the hospital which is to include a pharmacy. So it will be one stop shop for most health issues.</p> <p>There is a building already on the site which current services could occupy if possible and minimise disruption of services not only to the patients but the staff too.</p> <p>:</p> <p>This is the time scale for Wilson redevelopment: Finalise Service Model March 2017 Develop communications plan April 2017 Develop Community component financial model June 2017 Work up community campus building plans & financial case December 2017 Sign off on plans and start on site March 2018 Building work finished December 2019 Building operational (doors open to public) June 2020 It is obviously behind schedule which is good for this group especially since you have not yet gained access for internal viewing.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing Services</p>			<p>congestion and reduce air pollution associated with the school run.</p> <p>GC - Merton Liberal Democrats campaigned against the closure of the walk-in centre at Wilson Hospital. Speaking from personal experience using the Cricket Green GPs I have noticed that it's become increasingly challenging to secure appointments, especially when you are juggling a sick baby first thing in the morning! It's clear the replacement GP Access Hubs are not breaching the gap.</p> <p>Merton Liberal Democrats would be committed to preserving the existing features and increasing the green space. We would also look into off-road access and a drop-off point to Cranmer School to ease congestion and reduce air pollution associated with the school run.</p>
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		<p>to include: Primary Care services Rehabilitation services Diagnostic services Community resource hub Rapid assessment & investigation Community café Community therapies Consultation & treatment areas Adult mental health services Pharmacy Children’s physical & mental health Community transport Planning has already been done</p> <p>The Heritage Group</p> <p>To retain its architecture externally to include open spaces, trees, access and wild life. A plan to keep the look etc. of the Hospital is provided on your web site. I have read it and I agree Addressing the positive and negative aspects and working with planning to maintain features and improve and retain others.</p> <p>To ensure the same is done or the internal of the building it would be imperative that this group is able to see the hospital internally and to check the planning for the interior and to be able recognise any features to be preserved.</p> <p>I believe you have not been able to see inside. The priority must be that the Clinical Commissioning Group allows the heritage group a) Access to the inside of the hospital to identify any features that they wish to retain and b) Have the internal plans to see how best to achieve this</p> <p>I will support your group and we will insist the CCG gives us permission to carry out the internal viewing as a matter of priority. The plan seems to be delayed so there</p>			
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		<p>is no time to be complacent. A letter needs to go today...or ASAP if you're waiting for the 3rd May election results on the 4th May.</p>			
<p>Q7 What will you do to ensure Mitcham's registered Town Greens are better managed and kept free of litter?</p>	<p>Litter is a problem in every townscape and Mitcham is no different. Quite often much flotsam is carried on the wind. Rubbish Bins in Mitcham Town Centre like Morden should be emptied at 10pm every night. I know this is not happening. It happens in Wimbledon. This causes much of the flotsam. The prospective Conservative administration has promised far more regular sweeping of streets and more importantly to maintain the weekly rubbish collection.</p>	<p>I have already covered this under question 1</p> <p>We could ask: the young people in the Juvenile Detention Centre, the Street Champions, Friends of the Common.</p> <p>I have entered into The Mail's Great Plastic Pick Up week end. It is on the 11, 12 and 13th May I will be looking for loads of volunteers. I hope to cover Merton because there is a prize of £10,000 which will be awarded to three boroughs that pick up the most litter. The money will be in the form of power washing, graffiti moving etc. within the borough. We have to send photographs of the litter, volunteers in action and the rubbish collected. They then decide the winners</p>	<p>If elected, I will help to keep Cricket Green and its environs free from waste by holding Veolia, the contractor responsible for Merton's waste collection, to account, and to revise the current service contract, which is clearly not working. Indeed, Merton Green Party would seek to establish a litter task force to draw up a 5-year litter action plan and, in the short term, issue increased on-the-spot fines for littering.</p>	<p>As mentioned above, one of the six pledges made by Merton Labour Group is to "Deliver a cleaner greener borough". To do this the Labour Group have pledged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Drive up recycling rates and employ teams to fine those fly tipping and littering. · Introducing a wheeled bin service intended to eradicate litter from split black bags. · Continue to protect the fifth of the borough that is open parkland. · Work with the Mayor of London on air quality initiatives. 	<p>VB - Unfortunately, agreed street cleaning standards are not being met and no one is holding Veolia to account. The contract with IdVerde, responsible for litter and bins in open spaces, also requires strong management. Merton Liberal Democrats want the Council to ensure Veolia and IdVerde improve their services, increase street sweeping after collections to tackle leftover litter, install more public bins in our town centres and open spaces, and take stronger action against flytippers and litterers.</p> <p>GC - You can't walk down a street or go on social media without encountering some new issue with the litter and it's not good enough. While everyone would acknowledge managing budgets and contracts is challenging its clear agreed street and public cleaning standards aren't being met by Veolia or IdVerde.</p> <p>Merton Liberal Democrats want the Council to ensure Veolia and IdVerde improve their services, increase street sweeping after collections to tackle leftover litter, install more public bins in our town centres and open spaces, and take stronger action against flytippers and litterers.</p>
<p>Q8 What is your favourite place in Mitcham Cricket Green Conservation Area?</p>	<p>It has to be the Cricket Green. The oldest, disputed by Hambledon, cricket green in the world. Three Kings Pond especially. This is one piece of regeneration that has worked. We need more examples of this locally and in Morden.</p>	<p>My home I live in Mitcham Park which is part of the conservation area.</p> <p>I cannot pick one place as I love it all, the trees, the green areas, the ponds, the buildings, the history everything, and I would love it to stay exactly as it is.</p>	<p>Vestry Hall is welcoming and truly inclusive in the way that it is run and managed for the whole borough.</p>	<p>Rebecca Lanning said: "Mitcham Cricket Green Conservation Area is renowned for its unique history, which lends itself to a striking landscapes and landmarks, scaled from the cricket ground itself, to the plaques affixed to notable buildings. While these – and</p>	<p>VB - The cricket green itself – with a young family, it is great fun to have a picnic, let the kids run around, and watch the cricket!</p> <p>GC - I moved here in 2015 and had a baby last year. One day on from giving birth my new family and I took a stroll around the cricket green. The pictures and</p>

	<p>Morden has suffered perhaps more than any other part of the borough as it has not been considered for its Art Deco heritage other than the token Morden Parade repaint job.</p> <p>Street scene and a sense of place is essential for a community. Over the last 30 years there has been precious little effort given to this. During that period Conservatives have only been the administration for 4 years. It is time for a change.</p>			<p>many other landscapes that your membership has been instrumental in promoting – are significant in retaining and celebrating the fantastic heritage of the Conservation area, my favourite place has to be the Wilson Hospital site. I'm delighted that in the delivery of a modern health and wellbeing campus, co-designed with residents and the voluntary sector, we will be welcoming a brand-new community space to promote physical, psychological and emotional wellbeing."</p> <p>Russell Makin said: "As someone who has always been interested in sport my favourite areas of the Cricket Green area are the Cricket Club, walking on Mitcham Common. I am often to be seen exercising at Canons Leisure Centre. I will endeavour to help the Cricket Club secure the lease for the club house guaranteeing them a safe and secure future."</p> <p>Owen Pritchard said: "Having spent the best part of twenty years in the military, remembrance is an important part of my life. As such, my favourite place is the Cricket Green War Memorial. I thank your organisation for the work you all did in getting it listed."</p>	<p>memories will be part of who we are forever. My other half was also delighted that there are cricketers in the background for his baby daughters first pictures!</p> <p>And while it's not a place, some of the local people on my street have been great at making me feel welcome; going on to bring me jam and cuddly toys when my daughter was born. It's a lovely place to live but more could be done to make the area really fulfil the lives of residents old and new alike, and that what Merton Liberal Democrats would be committed to doing.</p>
		<p>Q1 continuation</p> <p>Greenspaces The Greenspaces team also underwent a restructure in 2011 as part of a council-wide cost saving exercise. This means they have fewer staff on the ground in parks and as such we have had to prioritise how the parks are managed, particularly in relation to</p>			

		<p>grass cutting and litter picking commitments. Merton cut public bins from 1200 to 670 Reduced street sweepers from 108 to about 75 As a result our streets are overflowing with filth.</p> <p>Veolia - Merton and three other Boroughs have an outsourcing contract with Veolia Veolia has been retained by Merton, Sutton, Croydon and Kingston to provide an outsourcing contract for rubbish collection, and if done correctly should save a significant amount of money for ratepayers, improve the service and should show improved cost reductions on the current and next contract. Apparently there is a saying with Contract Managers 'if you want a big problem outsource a small problem' But whether a service is in house or out sourced, its cost, success or failure is a result of its management's ability. The contract, if done correctly will have separate specific local variations for each local area. Each will have exacting service levels standards and escalation benchmarks, improvement markers and penalties for failure/s, which may result in breach of contract, where there is no issue of compensating failure, unless the contract specification is poorly written or unclear. This company is not delivering its promises as agreed in the contract and the system is not working, there is rubbish everywhere and loads of complaints from residents. The company has issued an apology which is not good enough.</p> <p>To ensure the company delivers its promises the Merton Contract Manager should regularly meet with the Kingston, Croydon and Sutton Contract managers, so they</p>			
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		<p>share information and are aware of any challenges. As for the contract itself, one problem could be the former Merton Council employees have been ridden over and that may well be a challenge for Veolia's management, as the former Merton employees may well feel disenfranchised with Merton Council due to their loss of Council benefits in due course.</p> <p>The quality of the Veolia service should be contained by the Council Contract Managers and the Cabinet member for cleanliness and is the only senior person responsible for reporting and signing the contract. The current cabinet member for cleanliness is Cllr Ross Garrod who is leaving in May. Failure of services must result in penalties. Apparently Mr Garrod has met recently with the UK director but there has been no visible improvement, so maybe penalties were not discussed. They are obviously doing as little as possible which shows profit comes before service.</p> <p>In order to terminate the contract all four boroughs need to agree. Until that time we will need to keep on trying to improve the service. Sutton are having similar issues as Merton but Kingston and Croydon are fairly new to the contract. If after following correct procedure and enforcing penalties there are still no improvements then the contact should be terminated and a tender advertised for a new contractor. Therefore, until that time, pressure must be applied to keep trying to improve the service.</p> <p>For the residents The aim should be to prevent rubbish being dumped rather than having to deal with clearing it up. Consultation on how to achieve this is required followed by a system of</p>			
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		<p>conveying clear communications to residents and if necessary issuing and enforcing warnings with fines. More effort is needed in catching people who fly tip and very heavy fines and jail time must be enforced and publicised. More awareness to be conveyed on alternative methods of rubbish disposal e.g. use of rubbish tips with clear and reasonable charges. Large item collection can take several weeks which could fuel fly tipping so reduced this timescale is essential.</p> <p>Parks and Streets</p> <p>Merton will have to look at the cost of manpower for the clearance of rubbish against that of restoring bins and emptying them. If bins were replaced the amount of rubbish and dog poo bags will be reduced considerably as well as rubbish left under already full ones. They also need to look at the budget for cost efficient cuts to other expenditure with a view to restore the staffing numbers to its previous levels they will have to weigh up positives of more staff against cuts cost of collection</p> <p>Rubbish is a massive priority to the council as it is creating a lot of very unhappy residents.</p> <p>I have been out when the street cleaners have been in the street and I have had to point out areas they are missing. So a good training programme would be essential. Perhaps they could reinstate staff from Veolia back to the council and employ new staff for rubbish collection or redeploying staff already employed. With more staff grass cutting especially now in the summer months will improve so would maintenance of ponds and more planting can be done which will attract more wildlife including threatened bees. This would relust in a much more pleasant place to live.</p>			
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		<p>Dog Pooh A scheme has been introduced in Barking in 2016. DNA and Dogs. Basically dog pooh is analysed and a data base kept of every dogs DNA and when analysed will show who the owner is. The amount of dog pooh was cut by more than half simply because people knew they were going to be held accountable. I don't know how far or even if the scheme has worked. Plastic bags are being thrown in bushes currently due to <u>lack of bins</u>. That's worse than not picking it up. Again fines should be enforced. Mind mapping for a solution by residents and council could be done to get ownership.</p> <p>Crime and anti- social behaviour and The Parks Department I will work closely with the police and the Safer Neighbourhood Team. I have already contacted PC Amanda Stonehouse and I am waiting for an email from PCO Tracy Whayman.</p> <p>Ponds Need the same level of cleanliness as the streets to protect wildlife, Big signs asking people not to throw bread into the ponds</p> <p>Education and Community Involvement a) Aim to Introduce Sustainability and Environmental Education curriculum into schools A company called se-ed: Sustainability and Environmental Education have fully documented topics that could be turned into a syllabus. Lottery grants could be explored here. b) Aim to provide community education activities e.g. Spacehive. who organise events like this c) Encourage and advertise 'becoming a 'Street Champion'</p>			
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		<p>More than sixty groups and individuals have signed up to be the eyes and ears of their community letting Merton know about local issues There are volunteers already in existence: Street Champions, friends of the Common. Now I know how everything works I can see where I can help in quite a few areas.</p> <p>Q5 continuation</p> <p>The White Hart and The Burn Bullock (The Kings Head)</p> <p>As a resident I would want to ensure that both buildings are used as per their planning approved i.e. kept as public houses.</p> <p>We have lost so many public houses in Mitcham as a whole. There is not a family pub left. We have lost the Cricketers, The Queens Head both in the conservation area. The Burn Bullock is empty with squatters, which needs to be investigated and The White Hart looks ready to be lost. The White Lion of Mortimer is up for sale and only has two years left on the lease which means that could go too. Public houses are community hubs and are therefore important for the welfare of the community for socialising and companionship. We must therefore try to retain our public houses that we have left.</p> <p>The White Hart Internal inspection would suggest it become a bistro pub for families and retain its car park. Depending on number of bedrooms maybe a small hotel. While the Burn Bullock with its proximity to the tram could be a hotel as there is a shortage of</p>			
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hotels in Mitcham. We could contact all the local breweries to support it and sell real ales which is the new trend for public houses, even the Breweries are opening micro pubs attached to their breweries. It could be registered with CAMRA which would help with advertising and marketing. A business plan could be drawn up to attract buyers or possible land lords with experience who can turn it into a vibrant business for the community to enjoy. And have those wonderful hanging baskets of flowers out the front..

The Burn Bullock
There is only one hotel as far as I can find out in Mitcham
Therefore it would be viable from a business point of view to start a hotel with perhaps a restaurant.
It has a good proximity to the tram and could attract people who would stay in Wimbledon if the room prices were attractive. Once the use is established a business plan could be drawn to attract potential buyers or renters.

We could hold various events to embrace the history of Cricket Green and a place to go after Cricket. Maybe we could get the Council to look at reducing the rates on these Pubs, Weatherspoon's rates are £60,000 and the White Hart £25,000. I don't know what the Burn and Bullocks rates are. Better to have pubs up and running with reduced rates. A quarter of those amounts is better than having closed pubs and no rates at all.

Mitcham Fire Station
Mitcham Fire Station has had permission for community use. We should start to decide what we want in the community. Explore ideas and the place a tender to see if we can get companies or

		<p>individuals to start a community programme beneficial to the community. And to tie all other activities together with the Wandle Museum. Work produced at the centre could be displayed in Park Place with the idea of having a prize giving of some description at the end of the year and then annually. Work could also be sold and an arrangement made with painter and centre for commission fees. This will have stipulations that the Fire brigade Building must retain its historic features.</p> <p>The Queens Head and The Kwik Fit Site These are both marked for development. I don't know how far each site is with planning or construction. Both are an eyesore with Boards that are attracting graffiti artists and damage. I suggest that both sites need to be started as soon as possible. The council should intervene and start placing deadlines in place for both planning and construction to be done as soon as possible.</p> <p>All current not mentioned and all future developments must have an action plan to ensure</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consultation between purchase of property and planning and hopefully have time limitations 2. Planning to be done with correct guidelines with a conservation area 3. Plan to be approved by a Conservation Committee 4. Time restraints for construction as soon as possible after approval and completion of project completed with a date 			
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		<p>agreed with the council.</p> <p>To look at the Merton Plan for other future planning developments in progress that have not been passed to see if they abide with the restrictions afforded to heritage and aim to get it done as quickly as possible.</p> <p>The following has been planned and approved for these sites: Queens Head - planning permission for 7 flats approved in July 2017 Kwik Fit - site planning given for a 3/4 storey building for 22 Flats, the ground floor will be retail premises. Granted in 2015.</p> <p>Note that construction must begin within 3 years or planning must be sought again.</p> <p>Educational and Sporting Programmes Expansion Ideas to make good use for the Cannons and improvements needed to comply</p> <p>To start educational programmes and sports programmes in the area. To improve running and athletic facilities. Inter sports competition can be arranged with the Cannons, Wimbledon and Morden sports centres working together. Winners would get awards and recognition and hopefully progress in whichever sport they excel</p> <p>To have NVQ courses by working closely with the job centre to seek qualifications in demand working in conjunction with local colleges and provided free.</p> <p>There are plenty of other projects to add to this action plan which can be done through public consultation.</p>			
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