



History Nugget for January 2020: Timelines No. 1 Local Authorities

The Public Health Acts of 1873 and 1875 saw the creation of Sanitary Authorities for urban and rural districts. The Croydon Rural Sanitary District consisted of nine civil parishes surrounding the County Borough of Croydon that included Merton, Mitcham and Morden.

The Local Government Act of 1894 abolished the sanitary districts, replacing them with urban and rural districts. In addition, it gave parishes the power to elect members to a parish council, and so the Mitcham Parish Council was formed, and remained part of the Croydon Rural District.

Wimbledon, which had been an urban district from 1894, became a municipal borough in 1905.

Merton Parish became an urban district in 1907, and in 1913 it absorbed Morden parish to become the Merton & Morden Urban District.

In 1914 the Surrey County Council ordered the abolition of the Croydon rural district, and Mitcham parish became an urban district in 1915.

Mitcham became a municipal borough in 1934.

In 1965, under the London Government Act of 1963, the municipal borough of Mitcham was abolished, and its area combined with that of the Municipal Borough of Wimbledon and the Merton & Morden Urban District to form the present-day London Borough of Merton.

Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage

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The Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr A. Mizen, reflected on the twenty years of its existence in a statement, recorded in the minutes of the last meeting of the Mitcham Parish Council on Wednesday 24th March 1915.

The Chairman's Statement

I should like to make a short statement tonight, after our twenty years as a Parish Council. There is always a sadness in the last time and tonight we have come to the last time that we shall meet as a Parish Council, but our sadness is softened by the knowledge that we shall, and, may I add, that I hope under brighter prospects and those in which our Country is now unfortunately plunged. We shall meet with a more imposing title of Urban District Council, but we can never be more in accord as to our desire to serve the Parish to the best of our ability. There has always been a keen anxiety to obtain a seat on the Parish Council. During the first eight years we held an annual election, then the period of election was altered to once in three years. I may say that as a Parish Council we have always had regard to economy, and I hope with our larger powers we may continue to do so, remembering that high rates always mean high rents.

Gentleman, after being in existence for 20 years we have tonight held our last meeting; since the Local Government Act of 1894 gave us the power to elect a Parish Council we have grown from a country village of 12,000 parishioners having a rateable value of £57,381 with an annual estimated rental of £70,092 to an Urban Parish of about 31,000 inhabitants with a rateable value of £137,000 and an estimated rental of £174,000. The Parish is 2,914 acres in extent, viz. 4½ square miles. Our Parish of Mitcham contains the largest population of any Parish in England that is governed by a Parish Council; we have seven groups of Council Schools, and one Voluntary School in the Parish, with about 7,000 children, or one-tenth of the children in the County of Surrey.

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