**Minutes of the
Colliers Wood Residents Association Meeting**

**Held on 5 November 2019**

1. Welcome and introductions

Kevin Godding, chairing the meeting, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies were received from Tom Searle, Sabrina and Slawek,

3. Anthony Hopkins: Head of Merton Libraries

Anthony Hopkins talked about the Merton Library service.

The library service has an extensive range of books but also lends ebooks and magazines.

As well as an adult literacy programme there is a proactive schools programme.

Libraries help residents get on line, and can help with Universal Credit applications. They also support people to find employment. A new website launched in March with a Customer app launched this month

The service is working towards becoming a dementia friendly service, the first to do this is Colliers Wood.

Merton Art Space, where festivals and events can be held, and the Heritage Centre also form part of the service. The service has been innovative when asked to make savings they have opted for income generation.

Residents expressed their appreciation for the way the service has managed to expand and for the design of the space which local children love.

3. Police report/Wandle Park

Inspector Bob Whitehead, responsible for the neighbourhood officers in Merton, Siobhan McDonagh, Chris Lee, Director of Environment and Regeneration, Amanda Leigh, Safer Merton, and two of the neighbourhood officers joined the meeting.

There had been two stranger rapes recently, one in Wandle Park. Inspector Whitehead reassured the meeting that these types of crime are very rare. Both perpetrators are already in prison.

The advice for those travelling late at night was to let people know where you are going, travel with a friend if possible, stick to well lit areas, and if concerned jump on a bus. Bus drivers have quick links to police and good cctv.

Chris Leigh explained that Merton is blessed with lots of parks and open spaces. They cannot all be locked and lit at night and people have to take sensible precautions. The council does not want people to use the parks at night. Lighting would encourage drug dealing and crime in general.

Street drinkers are hanging about at 5 in the morning outside the Charles Holden. Inspector Whitehead advised the people living there to phone 101. If an area is made more attractive it will also attract street drinkers. Chris Lee offered to look at Baltic Close and feed back to next meeting.

Jane from the Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre in Croydon had come to the meeting to suggest that we work together to challenge the idea that women should change their behaviour. Website www.rasasc.org.uk

Those concerned about speeding traffic in Robinson Road would be very welcome to to join the Police’s speed team to do speed checks. Names should be forwarded to the neighbourhood police team. Their email address will be added to the CWRA website.

Inspector Whitehead remind the meeting that the police are happy give personal crime prevention advice to make homes safer from burglary.

He also asked that the neighbourhood police team are informed of aggressive dogs, or suspicious behaviour for example possible drug dealing. He asked people to send an email with as much detail as possible.

A pilot scheme to cut down on traffic around 4 primary schools in Merton went live in October. Parents were written to before the scheme started. If successful this will be rolled out across the borough.

4. Climate Emergency Working Group: Tom Walsh, Sustainable Merton

The latest report from the United Nations has predicted that there are 10 years left before final and irreversible damage is done to the planet. Many Local Authorities have declared climate emergencies and Merton is one of them.

A Climate Emergency panel has been established to advise the council how to reduce carbon emissions to neutral by 2030 for council services and 2050 for the borough as a whole. It has 6 months to come up with advice. The panel is working through a number of sub groups each comprised of local residents.

Tom gave some examples of schemes that the council was already implementing in order tackle the problem, for example introducing charging points for electric cars which would both reduce the use of fossil fuels and also clear the air.

Residents are encouraged to get involved via Merton council website. There is a consultation/survey running at the moment. The CWRA website will publish the link.

As a member of the panel Tom undertook to keep the Residents Association updated.

Sustainable Merton will be producing “100 tips to become more sustainable”

5. Chair for next year

As Tom Searle would be stepping down next year, CWRA would be looking for a new chair.

6. MertonVision/Doctors’ surgery

Kevin had represented CWRA at the recent steering group. Eloise fed back on the two main issues. The developer would like to rebuild rather than refurbish. CWRA would rather refurbish, it wouldn’t have an impact on the look of the area and it is more environmentally friendly. Plans are currently being drawn up and residents will be consulted. Kevin and Eloise have asked to see the brief the architect has been given. Chris Lee assured the meeting that decisions would be policy led. He would speak to the planners.

7. Any other business

7.1 A plea was made for speed bumps on Fortescue Road. Chris Lee explained that roads where people have been killed or injured were prioritised. Speeding can be slowed down with humps but they can be very unpopular.

7.2 Chris Lee was due to meet with the ward councillors to talk about the pollution caused by the chimney at Briscoe Road. He explained that it would have to meet the threshold of a statutory nuisance in order to be shut down.

7.3 Infrastructure Levy

No further news on this from councillors.

7.4 Street Cleanliness

Laxmi Attawar reported that the Street Champions meeting would be held the following week.

Chris Lee acknowledged that street cleanliness is a problem in Colliers Wood. His team are working hard to make it better. Croydon are the contract holder. The deductions made by them from Veolia were the maximum 10% from both the Merton and Sutton contracts. Payment has been withheld until Veolia sort out the issues. Until the matter is resolved the council cannot make any of the information public.

Neighbours of the young people’s hostel in Wilton Road complained that they are still being woken at 5am every week by Veolia. It is their commercial arm which collect from the hostel. Chris Lee agreed to look into this too.

 8. Date & Time of the Annual General Meeting: **Tuesday 7 January 2020 at 7.30pm in St Joseph’s Church Hall, Park Road.**