

GRAVENEY WARD NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER/ NOVEMBER 2020

From Local Ward Councillors: Tobin Byers, John Dehaney and Linda Kirby

PUBLIC ZOOM MEETING

Thursday 19th November 7.00 pm

7.00 – 7.30 pm Police and crime issues

7.30 – 8.30 pm Councillors answering your questions.

Join Zoom Meeting 7.00 pm Thursday 9th November

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4566383997?pwd=c1ROWngxQXRaYVQ0S2p4L3JoakhUQT09>

Meeting ID: 456 638 3997

Passcode: 297577

The format for the meeting will be a panel with local police and councillors answering questions.

To ensure we cover as much ground as possible, we are asking residents to let us have your questions in advance of the meeting. That way we can prepare responses and save time. This will be especially helpful for those not able to attend or are not technical.

For those attending, questions can be asked on the night by using the Chat button.

You can email, telephone or text your questions in advance by email:

linda.kirby@merton.gov.uk or telephone 07946 533 374 (please leave a message with your name, address and telephone number so we can respond)

GRAVENEY WARD NETWORK AND NEWSROUND

During the course of the pandemic it has been good to have been able to keep in touch through GRAVENEY NEWSROUND with local residents on our email network. Regular weekly updates about things that are happening in the area; the support that's available; and local groups' news. All non-political. We have had good feedback from residents saying "*it makes them feel like part of a community*".

As the pandemic seems to be growing again, it would be good to add new names to our network so we can keep more people informed. Please can you share this information with friends & family who live in the ward and encourage them to sign up. They can email linda.kirby@merton.gov.uk to add their name to the network. People can always *unsubscribe* if they no longer want to take part and can be assured that information will not be shared with anyone else.

**Crime Statistics for Graveney Ward
16/10/2019- 16/10/2020**

ROAD	BURGLARY	MOTOR VEHICLE CRIME	ROBBERY	TOTAL
ASCOT ROAD	1	1	0	2
ASHBOURNE ROAD	4	11	0	15
BEECHOLME AVENUE	0	0	0	0
BOSCOMBE ROAD	1	3	0	4
BRUCE ROAD	1	2	0	3
CAITHNESS ROAD	2	6	0	8
CARLINGFORD GARDENS	0	0	0	0
CROMER ROAD	1	2	0	3
DEAL ROAD	0	1	0	1
EASTBOURNE ROAD	2	2	0	4
EDENVALE CLOSE	0	0	0	0
EDENVALE ROAD	0	7	0	7
EDGEHILL ROAD	0	5	0	5
ELMHURST AVENUE	0	4	1	5
FIGGES ROAD	0	0	0	0
FRINTON ROAD	0	0	0	0
GARDEN AVENUE	0	2	0	2
GORRINGE PARK AVENUE	1	5	0	6
GRENFELL ROAD	0	3	0	3
GUNTON ROAD	0	3	0	3
HAILSHAM ROAD	0	1	0	1
HEATON ROAD	3	3	0	6
HILL ROAD	1	4	0	5
INGLEMERE ROAD	0	1	0	1
IPSWICH ROAD	0	0	0	0
JERSEY ROAD	1	1	0	2
LINKS ROAD	8	12	0	20
LONDON ROAD	3	5	0	8
MELROSE AVENUE	0	5	1	6
MILTON ROAD	0	0	0	0
MITCHAM IND ESTATE	0	0	0	0
MITCHAM ROAD	0	1	0	1
PARK AVENUE	0	6	0	6
RIDGE ROAD	0	3	0	3
RURAL WAY	0	0	0	0
RUSTIC AVENUE	1	1	0	2
SEELY ROAD	4	11	0	15
SIRDAR ROAD	0	0	0	0
ST BARNABAS ROAD	0	2	0	2
ST. JAMES ROAD	1	2	0	3
STANLEY GARDENS	0	0	0	0
STANLEY ROAD	0	1	0	1
STREATHAM ROAD	5	10	2	17
THE BUNGALOWS	0	0	0	0
THIRSK ROAD	1	0	0	1
TYNEMOUTH ROAD	0	1	0	1
VECTIS ROAD	1	4	0	5
WOODLAND WAY	2	3	0	5
TOTAL	27	68	3	98

GRAVENEY STREET CHAMPIONS

A very big thank you to all our Street Champions who do such a good job keeping their eye out in their areas and regularly reporting issues of concern.

LOW TRAFFIC NEIGHBOURHOOD (LTN)

The low traffic neighbourhood barriers have now been installed in Links and Seely Roads and the initial flurry of opposing emails as well as the encouraging ones has now stopped as residents get used to the new arrangements. Some people have been reporting how lovely it is to be living in low traffic streets. After three months we will be able to determine whether this scheme is a success or not but for the moment, things seem to be working well.

The Cabinet Member, Martin Whelton and local councillors, reviewed the proposal for Gorringe Park Avenue but felt it would not be helpful to install barriers in this road. Surrounding roads that would have been affected by any barrier are already low traffic areas. So this LTN is not going ahead.

NORTH EAST MITCHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION.

Nemca sadly had to close its doors when the lock-down came. It was pleased to be able to re-open in September. Risk assessments have been carried out and all groups are following guidance. The playgroup came back but with smaller numbers for safety sake. The classes have gradually been returning. Coffee and Crayons, Youth Club, Zumba, Yoga, Children's Dance and Ballet. Our Fish & Chips lunch club and Roger & Linda's Tuesday Kitchen lunch club, both for our seniors, have been well-received but sadly have been postponed because of the rise to Tier 2. Those that attended were delighted to be able to take part. One attendee reported that she had spent 22 hours of her day since March on her own. We hope to be able to reopen gain as soon as it is safe to do so.

LINKS AND BEECHOLME SCHOOLS

Both schools have returned to full capacity and are working hard to maintain safe environments. Both supported vulnerable and keyworker children during the spring and summer term without a break. They have done a fantastic job under very difficult circumstances. So far no-one has tested positive in either school since the return.

CONTROLLED PARKING ZONE GC3

The Controlled Parking Zone in GC3 went live on 30th September. This was held up by the lockdown and further delayed because of the switch to the RINGO contract. Sadly, this caused a lot of confusion to residents in the zone for which officers are apologetic.

GRAVENEY IN BLOOM

On Saturday 26th September, Linda Kirby hosted the Graveney in Bloom awards at the community centre. Photos were taken in July of the front gardens and 113 were selected for awards. The following three gardeners won a prize of a £25 garden voucher:

Winnie McCarthy - Ashbourne, Bebe Elf - Ipswich and the Bhatti family - Edgehill.

Thanks to Keith Spiers for assisting with the judging. The other selected gardens received a PRETTY FRONT GARDEN certificate. This is a very popular event. Gardeners love to have their efforts appreciated and it helps to make the ward a good place to live.

COUNCIL UPDATE

At the last Council meeting, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Alambritis, announced his decision to step down as Leader in November. Councillor Alambritis has led the Council since 2010 and is expected to be replaced by Councillor Mark Allison, currently Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance, at the next meeting of the Council on 18 November.

The Council's focus continues to be on the response to Covid-19. As with most other parts of the country, the number of cases in the borough has risen in recent weeks, although it remains lower than in other parts of London. The Council's website is updated on a regular basis with the latest information and guidance on Covid-19: www.merton.gov.uk/coronavirus

The Council's budget has been severely impacted by Covid-19. The additional expenditure and loss in income caused by the pandemic has not been offset by the additional funding given to local authorities by the Government, leaving a significant shortfall. The Council is in the process of developing its budget for the 2021/22 financial year, which will be approved in March.

BOROUGH BOUNDARY CHANGES FOR THE NEXT ELECTION

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body set up by Parliament. It has determined that Merton, which currently has 60 seats on its council, will lose three seats. This is to ensure there is a balance in the number of voters per councillor. As a result, Graveney Ward will have another polling district added to it with a further 792 voters.

The new GD polling district will include the following roads from the current Figges Marsh Ward: Framfield Road (223), Uckfield Grove (84), Manship Road (93), Sandy Lane 31-51 (43), Spring Grove (140), Summerhill Way (61), Slade Way (145), Stepney Close (3).

MERTON'S NEIGHBOURHOOD FUND

Graveney Councillors entered two bids this year. One for a PARK RUN on Figges Marsh and the other to refurbish the popular tennis courts opposite Figges Marsh.

PARK RUN - We did secure £4,000 for this scheme which encourages local people to run 5 kilometres on a Saturday morning. We have a Park Run Ambassador – Jas Dhalley. He isn't sure yet whether the Marsh is big enough to host an adult 5km scheme. The circuits have to be even and the maximum number of circuits allowed is 3. Work is still in progress on this. Our fall-back position if this fails, is a junior scheme (on Sunday mornings) 2 km which, experience suggests, is likely to have parents and grandparents also joining in.

Tamworth Tennis Courts have been refurbished – new surface, lines and nets. We didn't get the money from the Neighbourhood Fund but we did secure Section 106 funding for the work. Graveney residents mentioned how popular these courts were in our January survey, so we're very pleased to have been so successful in these bids.

GRAVENEY MUTUAL AID VOLUNTEERS – FOODBANK AND FURNITURE PROJECT

A big thanks also to the Graveney Mutual Aid volunteers who have been supporting local people in need. Special thanks to Donna Abberley, Gemma Dorkings, Vedia Maharah, Shahin Din, Sarah Swaysland, Tessa Stampfer-Kinsey, Rose Chandler, Lyn Adams and Roger Norman for going that extra mile to support those in need.

Also thanks to all the local residents who are still contributing to the foodbank. With growing numbers of families in need, we are encouraging more people to donate either with goods or financial donations. We have three weekly collection points in Graveney

GA area	Seely Road	Shahin	07971 781 415
GB area:	73 Ashbourne Road	Linda	07946 533 374
GC area:	Caithness Road	Tess	07940 764 369

Food needed: Cooking oil, Potatoes, Onions, Cereal, Rice, Tinned Tuna /Sardines, Stew/ Corned Beef, Longlife milk, Toilet Rolls, Soap, Shower Gel, Shampoo & Conditioner.

For Furniture donations please contact: <http://tiny.cc/furnitureddonation> or phone Sarah on 07450 297 756

Furniture needed: Fridge/freezers, table/chairs, sofas, wardrobes, Single or double bedframes only, cookers, microwaves, T.Vs.

Alternately, you can make a financial donation to THE WIMBLEDON FOOD BANK Which includes the Mitcham satellite at New Horizons Centre in Pollards Hill.

<https://wimbledon.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/>

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLORS

We are sorry that our monthly surgery has not been in operation since the beginning of the pandemic. Please contact us if you have any issues you would like us to help you with.

Cllr Linda Kirby	linda.kirby@merton.gov.uk	07946 533 374
Cllr Tobin Byers	tobin.byers@merton.gov.uk	07760 421 564
Cllr John Dehaney	john.dehaney@merton.gov.uk	07951 557 273

Graveney Ward Councillors share information with local residents about things going on in their area or affecting them. These emails are non-political and we do not share our contacts with anyone else.

If you would like to be added to our Graveney Network please email:
linda.kirby@merton.gov.uk

If you no longer wish to be on our network please reply with UNSUBSCRIBE and your details will be removed.

NEED HELP?

Graveney Mutual Aid Volunteers – local residents offering to help with shopping or ringing to have a chat.

Ring Donna on: 07951 723 379 or email: graveneygc@gmail.com

Merton Voluntary Service

Call 020 8685 2272 or email: help@mvsc.co.uk

If you are offering help please email: volunteer@mvsc.co.uk

Citizen's Advice - free national helpline for those in financial crisis

If you are in financial crisis and live in England or Wales, please call 0808 2082 138 for free (open Monday to Friday 9.00 am - 5.00 pm) to talk confidentially with a trained Citizens Advice adviser. They can help address your crises and provide support to maximise your income, help you navigate the benefits system, and identify any additional grants you could be entitled to. If needed, they'll issue you with a voucher so you can get an emergency food parcel from your local food bank.

National Domestic Violence Helpline - 0808 2000 247

The National Domestic Violence Helpline is run in partnership with Women's Aid and Refuge. The helpline is staffed 24 hours a day by fully trained helpline support workers and volunteers.

Community Champion

Want to become a Champion - email Public.Health@merton.gov.uk or una.obrien@merton.gov.uk for more information.

Merton Giving

If you feel like you are able to make a financial donation and you would like to, please visit the Merton Giving site here: <https://www.justgiving.com/mvsc>

Any donations will be used to deliver vital assistance to vulnerable people who are isolated.

GRAVENEY WARD TEAM



Police Sergeant: **Gavin Johns**

Police Constable: **Nigel Smith**

Police Community Safety Officer: **Bradley Jewell**

020 8721 2724

MertonGraveney.snt@met.police.uk

Dial 999 in an emergency or 101 if your call is not an emergency

REPORT FLYTIPS OR WASTE ISSUES

<https://www.merton.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling/litter-fly-tipping-and-street-cleaning>