

GRAVENEY WARD NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2021

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

PUBLIC ZOOM MEETING

Wednesday 17th March 2021

7.00 - 9 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83866954756?pwd=VS9FRWJTbDYxYkZ6SjIwZC9xWTNRUT09>

Meeting ID: 838 6695 4756

Passcode: 366100

Your opportunity to raise issues with your local councillors.

GRAVENEY WARD NETWORK AND NEWSROUND

Keeping in touch and sharing information has never been more important than during this Covid 19 pandemic. The Graveney Network helps us keep in touch. It would be good to add new names so that 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. Information is not political. 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.

BIG THANKS TO OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS – LINKS AND BEECHOLME AND LOCAL KEYWORKERS

Both of our local schools have been supporting vulnerable and keyworker children during this latest lockdown again and doing a really great job.

Our local post office, small businesses, shops and takeaways have looked after us well.

Thanks to all of them for looking after us during this difficult time.

Council budget update

by Cllr Tobin Byers, Cabinet Member for Finance

In the current financial year, the Council's budget has been significantly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. At the time of writing, the net cost of Covid-19 to the Council is just over £9.2m, taking account of the additional money the Council has spent and the income it has lost and offsetting that against money provided by the Government. As a result, the Council is currently forecasting a net shortfall of £4.3m for the current financial year.

Merton Council is due to set its budget at a meeting on 3rd March 2021. The budget has been difficult to set due to a number of uncertainties. It is likely that the impact of Covid-19 will stretch into the next financial year and beyond, and whilst a Covid grant has been provided for 2021/22, it is unclear what support will be provided beyond this. Similarly, the Government decided not to undertake the Comprehensive Spending Review that was planned in 2020 was cancelled and instead funding was only announced for the immediate year, which makes planning beyond 2021/22 difficult. This is compounded by the fact that a number of the grants announced at the Spending Review in November 2020 were one-off grants, providing no certainty of the level of funding the Council will receive beyond 2021/22.

The draft budget includes a number of savings proposals, some of which have been caused by the fact that the Council has had to spend more money in its response to Covid-19 than the Government has provided. This is despite the fact that at the start of the pandemic, the Government pledged that local authorities would be fully recompensed for the full cost of supporting their communities.

The Government's own calculations assume all local authorities will raise Council Tax by the maximum level – 1.99% - and levy the Adult Social Care Precept – 3%. The fact that the Government assumes local authorities will levy these charges means that they are penalised if they do not, as their spending power will be reduced. The draft budget therefore assumes a Council Tax rise and the Adult Social Care Precept, in line with the Government's assumptions.

MORE TREES?

There is now a 'request a tree' e-form on Merton's website which we would encourage everyone to use if they would like a tree planted within the borough. It is hoped that this enable us to plan our planting programme more efficiently and plant trees where they requested by our residents. This link provides further information.

<https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/regeneration-urban-design/trees/street-trees/new-tree>

Crime Statistics For Graveney Ward 15/01/2020 - 15/01/2021

ROAD	BURGLARY	MOTOR VEHICLE CRIME	ROBBERY	TOTAL
ASCOT ROAD	1	2	0	3
ASHBOURNE ROAD	0	3	1	4
BEECHOLME AVENUE	0	0	0	0
BOSCOMBE ROAD	1	1	0	2
BRUCE ROAD	1	1	0	2
CAITHNESS ROAD	1	5	0	6
CARLINGFORD GARDENS	0	0	0	0
CROMER ROAD	1	1	0	2
DEAL ROAD	0	0	0	0
EASTBOURNE ROAD	1	1	0	2
EDENVALE CLOSE	0	0	0	0
EDENVALE ROAD	0	2	0	2
EDGEHILL ROAD	0	5	1	6
ELMHURST AVENUE	0	1	0	1
FIGGES ROAD	0	0	0	0
FRINTON ROAD	0	0	0	0
GARDEN AVENUE	0	3	0	3
GORRINGE PARK AVENUE	0	4	0	4
GRENFELL ROAD	0	1	0	1
GUNTON ROAD	0	1	0	1
HAILSHAM ROAD	0	1	0	1
HEATON ROAD	2	2	0	4
HILL ROAD	0	5	0	5
INGLEMERE ROAD	0	1	0	1
IPSWICH ROAD	0	0	0	0
JERSEY ROAD	2	1	0	3
LINKS ROAD	6	8	2	16
LONDON ROAD	0	2	2	4
MELROSE AVENUE	0	1	0	1
MILTON ROAD	0	0	0	0
MITCHAM IND ESTATE	0	2	0	2
MITCHAM ROAD	0	0	0	0
PARK AVENUE	0	1	0	1
RIDGE ROAD	0	3	0	3
RURAL WAY	0	0	0	0
RUSTIC AVENUE	1	1	0	2
SEELY ROAD	4	8	0	12
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	0	0	0
STREATHAM ROAD	3	5	2	10
THE BUNGALOWS	0	0	0	0
THIRSK ROAD	0	0	0	0
TYNEMOUTH ROAD	0	0	0	0
VECTIS ROAD	1	3	0	4
WOODLAND WAY	1	1	0	2
TOTAL	27	80	8	115

Motor Vehicles high due to
Catalytic Converter theft

MESSAGE FROM OUR SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

Hi Graveney,

We hope you are all keeping safe in these strange times.

Over the past year we have continued to do our normal routine work as well as all the Covid related work on top, so we've been exceptionally busy.

You can still contact us if you need to on our phone: 020 8721 2724 or our email address: GraveneyVW@met.police.uk. But please do not contact us on these methods if you wish to report crime, you can do so online or via 101 and always in an emergency always call 999.

We have been working with the local authority to prevent Anti Social Behaviour issues on the ward. We have recently had success in reducing the amount of reports regarding Garden Avenue. Ambaal's owner has actually done work to prevent people thinking he is the issue. He out of his own pocket paid for two flood lights to be purchased and installed them on his side wall to illuminate the area after it was suggested by police. We also had pushed the council to have the trees at the end of the road cut back ahead of schedule and this has now been done. We also did numerous patrols with both in-house and external council environmental enforcement officers and issued fines for breaches of the Public Space Protection Order in our ward.

We have been happy to see all the good news stories councillors have been sharing about the brilliant work so many of you have all been doing to help others since the start of this pandemic. It makes us very proud to be your Designated Ward Officers!

But with these positives we must remind everyone to follow the restrictions put in place by government, not only are they the law, they are there to protect us all and because of the recent surge in cases over the past few months, the vast majority are following them which is great, but we must not be complacent. Thankfully at the time of writing we personally have not had to issue any Covid fines on the ward, only given words of advice, which is a plus!

As you will have seen in the news vaccinations are progressing at an impressive rate and hopefully this will allow us to get back to a relative normality at some point this year, as we, like most of you, are finding difficult being under restrictions.

Bradley, Nigel and Mark

JUNIOR PARK RUN

We are hoping to set up a Junior Park Run on Figges Marsh.

We have had a good response from local residents and schools willing to help organise. We have secured £4,000 for this from Merton Council's Neighbourhood Fund.

We hope to be able to get this up and running as soon as possible

JOIN OUR STREET CHAMPIONS TEAM?

We have a wonderful group of volunteers keeping an eye on our streets and reporting in concerns.

If you would like to join us please contact : linda.kirby@merton.gov.uk

Big farewell to Elaine Hopkins, Ivan Millar and Roger Norman who are moving out of the borough. Thanks for all your support. You have been amazing.

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.

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 Helpline – 0808 2000 247

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

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 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