



*This Questionnaire is being sent to the Leader of each party contesting the Merton Council election in May 2018.*

*14 February 2018*

*Answers will be summarised, published and put up on the Society website.*

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If, following the coming Local Elections, your party is in control of Merton Council, or is working in an agreement with another Party:

1. How will you protect all the open spaces, parks and green areas in the Borough, including back gardens, from built development, and improve their character? Will you bring in a 'Tree Years' Policy that requires enough new trees to match the age of trees lost by development?
2. How will you protect Conservation Areas from inappropriate development?  
Will you consider introducing Article 4 Directions in some Conservation areas? Will you introduce positive enhancement and management plans in these areas? Will you increase the resources and staffing of the overstretched Development Control and Enforcement Team?
3. How will you significantly reduce the amount of energy and water now being used in the Borough?
4. Will you press developers of significant developments to have creative pre-application discussions with the public before they submit their planning applications?  
Will you publish all pre-app discussions between developers and planning officers as they happen?
5. How will you improve facilities for pedestrians, for cyclists and for buses?  
How will you re-balance the pedestrian and vehicular spaces in the Town Centre, and improve its character and safety? Will you introduce more 20 mph zones, with proper enforcement, and if so, where?
6. Will you use the Council's own Hartfield Road site to facilitate the provision of a new Civic Hall?
7. If Council-owned sites are to be developed, will you ensure that this is done by Leasehold sale, retaining the Freehold?
8. What will you do to improve the links between Social Services and the NHS?
9. Crossrail 2: Will you press for all tunneling operations to be driven from the Thames end, to lessen the disruption to Wimbledon Town Centre and rail services?
10. Will you adopt a firm Policy to resist all buildings over 6 storeys in Wimbledon Town centre?  
Do you support the Society's planning strategy for Wimbledon Town Centre?
11. Where would you envisage the siting of the numbers of new homes, required under the new London Plan, on both large and small sites and what is your attitude to small sites and infill? How will you explain to the public where all the new housing is to be located, and what effect it will have on local character?
12. What is your policy on buildings that are not being refurbished remaining empty and unoccupied, in excess of 1 year?
13. Will you consider re-introducing the Committee system into the Council in place of the current 'Cabinet Member' system?
14. How would you implement improvements to the existing street cleaning and to the discouragement of the use of plastic bottles and take-away coffee cups which cannot be re-cycled?
15. Is there anything else that you would like to comment on?

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Responses to Chris Goodair by **23 March 2018** please.