Dear Resident/Business

In line with Merton’s commitment to reduce vehicular speeds through a 20mph zone or a 20mph speed limit, funding has been allocated for 2008/09 financial year to convert existing traffic calmed roads within the borough into 20mph zones/limits. Among these proposed areas is the Farm Road Area, bounded by Central Road to the north-west, Green Lane to the south, and St Helier Avenue in the east. Please see the enclosed plan for the proposed area.

A 20mph speed limit or 20mph zone is a dedicated area where improving safety and maintaining the quality of life for local residents takes precedence over the general objective to ease traffic movement. It is a tool of changing the speed limit from 30mph to 20mph.

For a 20mph zone, traffic calming features in the form of road humps; speed cushions; road closures; one way systems and pedestrian refuge islands and road narrowings would have to be introduced to achieve a legal and self-enforceable zone. A 20mph limit, however, does not require any traffic calming features as part of the legal requirements except for the introduction of appropriate signs and road markings throughout the area.

20mph Zone
As Farm Road, Faversham Road, and Furness Road are the only roads within the proposed area with sufficient traffic calming features, additional traffic calming measures would have to be installed on the other roads at a maximum distance of approximately 100 metres apart to satisfy the legal requirements for the 20mph zone. The roads without any or sufficient traffic calming features are Bristol Road, Bruton Road, Buckland Walk, Calder Road, Canterbury Road, Cartmel Gardens, Cerne Road, Chester Gardens, Combermere Road, Crowland Walk, Croxden Walk, Darley Gardens, Dorchester Road, Dore Gardens, Easby Road, Egleston Road, Evesham Green, Evesham Road, Jarrow Close, Middleton Road, Pilgrim Close, St Helier Avenue (from its junction with Bristol Road up to the south easter border of number 140) and Willows Avenue.

PROPOSALS
20mph Limit
In order to convert this area into a 20mph zone, many additional features would be required to satisfy legal requirements; therefore it has been agreed to consider the introduction of a 20mph limit rather than a 20mph zone. It is also proposed that 5 sets of speed cushions be located along Middleton Road to enforce the speed limit on this stretch of the road. These will be located within the vicinity of Nos 6, 5, 28, 36 & 58 Middleton Road.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?
A Notice of the Council’s intentions to make the Traffic Management Order (TMO) for the above measures will be published in the local newspaper, London Gazette and posted on lamp columns in the vicinity. Representations for and against must be done in writing to the Head of Street Scene and Waste Management Division, Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 5DX by no later than 5 December 2009, quoting reference ES/SGE/FARMRD20MPH.

Anyone who opposes the scheme must state the grounds upon which their objection is made. Those who support the scheme are also encouraged to make representations.
Please note that responses to any representation received will not be made until a final decision is made by the Cabinet Member. The Council is required to give weight to the nature and content of your representations and not necessarily the quantity. Your reasons are, therefore, important to us.

A larger scale plan identifying the area affected by the proposal can be inspected at Merton Link, Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden, Surrey during the Council’s working hours, Monday to Friday, between 9am and 5pm.

The outcome of the consultation, along with officer’s recommendations will be reported to the Cabinet Member for a decision. Once a decision is made, you would be informed accordingly via a newsletter.

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