Dear Residents

In line with Merton’s commitment to reduce vehicular speeds throughout the borough through 20mph zones or 20mph speed limits, funding has been allocated for 2008/09 financial year to convert existing traffic calmed roads within the borough into 20mph zones/limits. Merton Park area bounded by Crown Lane, section of Martin Way, Cannon Hill Lane, Kingston Road, Dorset Road and Morden Road has been identified as one area that is suitable for a 20mph speed limit.

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. Traffic speeds within this area are not to exceed 20mph.

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

PROPOSALS
To convert this area into a 20mph zone, additional traffic calming measures would have to be installed at a maximum distance of 100 metres as per regulations in the following roads: Poplar Road South (4 sets of cushions); Cranleigh Road (3 sets); Stratton Road (2 sets); Keswick Avenue (2 sets); Erridge Road (5 sets); Melrose avenue (5 sets); Langley Road (1 set); Charnwood Avenue (1 set); Charminster Avenue (1 set); Wessex avenue (1 set) and Daybrook Avenue (5 sets).

Due to number of traffic calming features required for a 20mph zone, it is considered that a 20mph speed limit would be the preferred option and therefore, it has been agreed to formally consult on converting this area into a 20mph speed limit.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?
A notice of the council’s intention to make the Traffic Management Order (TMO) for the above measures will be published in the local newspaper and London gazette. Notices will also be posted on lamp columns in the area.

Representation against the proposals 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 10 October 2008, quoting reference ES/SGE/MERTON PARK20MPH.
Anyone who opposes the scheme must state the grounds upon which their objections is made. We also welcome letters in support.

Please note that responses to any representations received will not be given 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 copy of the draft TMO, a plan identifying the area affected by the proposal and the Council’s ‘Statement of Reasons’ 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.

Please note that the outcome of the consultation along with officer’s recommendations will be reported to either the Street management Advisory Committee on 4 November 2008 or, if appropriate to the Cabinet Member for a decision. Once a decision is made, you will be informed accordingly via a newsletter.

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