



Merton Neighbourhood Watch

Autumn 2024

Update from South West BCU

"Dear residents,

This is my first update since joining Merton Safer Neighbourhoods in January. Unfortunately, early on in my move to Merton we had a firearms discharge and it was clear that there was work to be done. As such we set up Operation Hessian which was our own direct response to dealing with some of the violence we were seeing. The operation involved number plate recognition, weapon sweeps, high visibility patrols in hotspot areas and culminated in officers carrying out 32 early morning warrants across Merton on a number of different days of action. It has not necessarily always been easy and the planning for such an operation has sometimes been monumental.

The results speak for themselves but since April we have had 40 arrests with 12 firearms seized including a STEN sub machine gun, £85,107 in cash suspected to be the proceeds of crime, quantities of controlled drugs with a street value estimated at £340,000 and 40 bladed and offensive weapons.

We hope that the arrests send a firm message to offenders that we are committed to removing them from the community to protect our neighbourhoods.

I would like to credit the PCs and PCSOs who have worked so hard across the last 6 months to get these incredible results to hopefully make this a safer space for all. We also could not do this without the public supporting us and that means the residents of Merton. Please keep reporting incidents of crime and incidents of concern. We, rightly, cannot always update you for operational reasons, but hopefully you can see that going forward we will act on information, and we constantly look to take action wherever we can.

My final message is sadly as we say goodbye to the last of the summer, and head towards Halloween and Bonfire night, we will make sure we have officers deployed to react to any anti-social behaviour taking place. Please come and say hello when we are out for the autumn nights.

Take care, **Sergeant James Burke.**"

Autumn Nights - Crime Prevention Reminder

As the nights get darker, autumn typically brings an increase in burglaries, thefts, and anti-social behaviour.



Crime prevention doesn't need to be expensive. There are easy steps you can take to make your home appear occupied and lower your risk of becoming a victim.

Follow the **STOP, CHAIN, CHECK** rule when people call at the door:

STOP – If you are not expecting anybody and they don't have an appointment, don't let them in.

CHAIN - Use your door chain or bar before opening the door

CHECK – Ask to see ID and double check this.

- ➔ To report a crime call 101 or report online at met.police.uk. Ring 999 immediately if the crime is in progress.
- ➔ You can also report anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

To keep your home and property safe:

- ✓ Always ensure doors and windows are locked, even when you're at home. Remove the keys from the locks and keep them out of sight and reach.
- ✓ Avoid leaving items like laptops, phones, keys, or bags visible through ground floor windows.
- ✓ Consider installing a doorbell camera, indoor camera, and/or a monitored burglar alarm for added security.
- ✓ If you have a garage, park your vehicle inside. If not, ensure your vehicle is locked and all valuables are removed, as burglars often look for unlocked doors.
- ✓ Lock your garden gates and side entrances. Store ladders and tools securely, and avoid leaving them outside where they could be used to gain entry into your home.
- ✓ Use timer switches to turn on lights while you're away, varying the times and the lights used.



Autumn Events

Halloween

Not everyone enjoys Halloween. You can download a "No Trick or Treat" poster here: [Merton Neighbourhood Watch](#).



Bonfire Night

- Morden Park, Saturday 2 November
- Wimbledon Park, Tuesday 5 November



Running order 2024:

- 6:15pm - Gates and funfair open
- 6:45pm - First fireworks show (more suitable for young children)
- 8.30pm - Second fireworks show
- Plus funfair, refreshments and bar
- 10.00pm - Funfair closes

Please note no sparklers, fireworks, dogs or alcohol are to be brought into the venue.

Protect Yourself from Scams



LEARN HOW TO:

- Spot a scam
- What to do if you have been scammed
- How to keep yourself safe from scams
- Different types of scams

Thursday 3 October

11am - 1pm

Morden Baptist Church Hall Crown
Lane Morden SM4 5BL

16th November 2024

11am-1pm

St Marks Church Hall, St Marks Road
Mitcham.

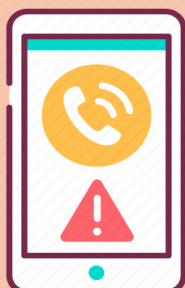
6th February 2025

4pm-6pm

Drake House, St Georges Road,
Wimbledon.

→ **Presentations from Merton Council Trading Standards and the Metropolitan Police.**

→ **Marketplace with stalls offering support on a range of Merton services.**



Domestic Abuse Support

If you are experiencing domestic abuse, then confidential advice and support is available at:

THE ONE STOP SHOP, Mondays 9.30am – 12 noon, Morden Baptist Church, Crown Lane, Morden SM4 5BL (Closed on bank holidays)

Information: 020 7801 1777 www.merton.gov.uk/domesticviolence

Domestic Abuse support:	Sexual Violence support:
Victim Support Merton Domestic Violence Workers 020 7801 1777	In an emergency always call 999. For non-emergency incidents: - If you are in a public place, call 101 - If you are on public transport, text the British Transport Police on 61016
24-hour National Domestic Violence Freephone Helpline (access to refuge) 0808 2000 247	Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre Call free 24/7 on 0808 500 2222 www.rasasc.org.uk
Men's Advice Line (for male victims) 0808 801 0327	Victim Support Call free 24/7 on 0808 168 9111 www.victimsupport.org.uk
Galop (service for LGBTQ victims) 020 7704 2040	Solace Women's Aid Call free on 0808 802 5565 www.solacewomensaid.org
Respect (for people who are abusive towards their partners) 0808 802 4040	
Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre South London 0808 802 9999	
NSPCC Helpline 0808 800 5000	



White Ribbon

The White Ribbon UK is the leading charity engaging men and boys to prevent violence against women and girls.

You can Make the White Ribbon Promise to never use, excuse or remain silent about men's violence against women by scanning the code below



I PROMISE TO...

NEVER
COMMIT, EXCUSE OR
REMAIN SILENT ABOUT
MALE VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN

MAKE THE PROMISE

whiteribbon.org.uk/promise

Wimbledon Guild



Assertiveness and Boundaries Courses

Free Assertiveness and Boundaries Courses: Wimbledon Guild's free courses offer a great opportunity to learn about and practise ways to be assertive and maintain healthy boundaries in a small, closed group.

Priority Services Register: Joining the Priority Services Register means you'll get extra help from your energy suppliers and water company when you need it, including an identification and password scheme if someone from a company visits or calls, giving you confidence they are genuine. Simply contact your supplier by phone, email or online and tell them you want to join. They will explain next steps.

Upcoming Events

World Stroke Day Health Information Event (free): Join us at WG Morden on 29th October at 13:30 to learn about stroke about risk, prevention and what to do if you or a family member have had a stroke.

Lung Cancer Health Information Event (free): On Tuesday 19th November at 10:30am, we will host a lung cancer health information event at Wimbledon Guild. Individuals will learn about the two types and how early diagnosis significantly improves life expectancy.



Alzheimer's Society – Dementia

Friendly Swimming

A new, weekly, free, swimming group for carers and people with dementia in Merton.

Alzheimer's Society has teamed up with GLL Canon's Leisure Centre in Mitcham to provide three months of supported Dementia Friendly swim sessions!

These free sessions are for people with dementia and their family members and carers. They are funded by Merton Council's Borough of Sport Fund. Canon's Leisure Centre has been working as a member of Merton Dementia Action Alliance to become a dementia friendly leisure centre.

Why is Dementia Friendly Swimming important?

People with dementia have said that remaining involved in their community is a top priority. Studies have shown that physical activity can help reduce loneliness and social isolation, both of which can have an impact on the rate at which dementia progresses. Not only this, but exercise also reduces the risk of vascular dementia. Dementia Friendly Swimming can help people stay independent for longer, and has multiple health benefits, including improving sleep, digestion, and cognition, to mention only a few.

To book go to:

<https://bookings.better.org.uk/location/canon-leisure-centre/swimming>

or call Merton Memory Hub on 0208 687

What is Dementia Friendly Swimming?

Dementia Friendly Swimming will allow people with dementia and their carers or family members to use the pool at a quieter time when they know they will be supported. This would include: finding and using their locker, getting into the pool safely, having a trained swimming instructor to hand for extra support.

When will it take place?

Dementia Friendly Swimming will be available every Tuesday through September and November - You can book via the GLL website or by calling Merton Memory Hub! First session: Tuesday 10th September.



What is the Merton Dementia Action Alliance (MDAA)?

The MDAA is a member-led accessibility and information initiative coordinated by the London Borough of Merton in partnership with the Alzheimer's Society. Its main aims are to improve ease of access to community services in the borough and raise awareness of dementia.

Guidance for this dementia friendly swim project has been given by Swim England. Ali Noyce, Health and Wellbeing Manager, Swim England, says,

“Through our previous Dementia Friendly Swimming project we saw participants with improved physical and mental wellbeing and pain reduction. In addition to increased confidence and the ability to concentrate with reduced anxiety, we also found improvements in water confidence and physical activity levels. This initiative at Canon’s Leisure centre is an outstanding example of collaboration between the leisure industry and a charity to open up water space to those living with Dementia and their carers. The addition of a Swim Teacher to support as part of the sessions is fantastic. Congratulations to all of the teams involved in getting this project up and running.”

Deborah Francis, Dementia Advisor at the Alzheimer’s Society, says,

“Swimming is a great form of exercise that doesn’t discriminate by age and mobility. It’s a positive step towards more support for people living with dementia or people experiencing memory loss issues in the local community.”



Day of Visibility 11 September 2024 – Morden Town Centre – Outcomes

Location: Morden Town Centre SM4.

Objective: To undertake community engagement with stakeholders (visitors, residents, and businesses) and educate, advising and enforcement actions utilising your services areas enforcement powers and remits. To patrol with the NPT colleagues and to ensure that actions are carried out in Morden Town Centre using a multi-agency approach if suitable.

Teams on multi-agency patrols: ASB Team, Environmental Health Enforcement, Police SNTs, Bike Marking Stall, VAWG, Licencing, Trading Standards, Homeless and Outreach Services, Youth Engagement, Private Sector Housing.

Area Returns

ASB Team, Environmental Health Enforcement, Environmental Enforcement Kingdom, Police SNTs, Bike Marking Stall, VAWG, Licencing, Trading Standards, Homeless and Outreach Services, Youth Engagement, Private Sector Housing.

Generalized Returns

ASB Team:

The ASB Team had a stall outside the Civic Centre with ASB Material and provided advise to members of the public on reporting Antisocial Behaviour to the Local Authority. We also spoke with residents about the importance of reporting concerns and behaviours affecting the quality of the local amenity to ensure that appropriate resources are allocated to ASB affecting the locality. The ASB Team spoke with local businesses about reporting Anti-social Behaviour and outreached to residents in areas where we have received ASB complaints previously. We highlighted the importance of reporting to the MET Police and Local Authority ASB Team. The ASB Team conducted a joint patrol with the MET Police and Rough Sleeper Team and engaged with a rough sleeper and street drinker outside Morden Tube Station. We spoke with the Station Manager and highlighted the importance of monitoring the Land outside of the Tube Station and keeping the area pleasant for all to enjoy.

The Team reported several cleansing issues on fix my street and other matters internally and externally including graffiti, waste accumulation and street signage requests to be renewed.



Police and Bike Marking Stall

The Local Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team had a stall outside the Civic Centre with Crime Prevention, Burglary, and Scam advice and materials and items, and Neighbourhood Watch advice. The team patrolled the area with the ASB Team and Rough Sleeper Team. A [Bike Marking](#) service was available for marking bicycles and assets with identification numbers which were traceable should bicycle and asset be stolen. Security and crime prevention advice was given to residents and visitors.

Violence Against Women and Girls

The Team had a stall outside the Civic Centre with Personal Safety Advice including providing personal alarms and advice for reporting to the police anonymously through [Crimestoppers](#) and [Fearless](#). The Team provided domestic abuse and violence material to members of the public.



Licencing

The Licencing Team visited a dozen premises for business compliance inspections. They identified one Businesses with an expired licence and one business requiring a new licence. They were pleased to see that most of the business were compliant with their licence conditions and that staff had risk assessments on site.

Trading Standards

The Trading Standards Team visited 4 premises within the area for weights and measure inspections. They noted that 3 scales were weighing correctly, and one scale required a repair to be made. They will be reinspecting the scale that was weighing incorrectly.

Private Sector Housing

The Private Sector Housing Team surveyed the area for unlicensed HMOs that may require a licence. The Team did not find any unlicensed properties.

Homeless and Outreach Services

The Team patrolled Morden and came across one male who was rough sleeping. The male was not known to the area and services and did not require support services. The male left the area on the tube.

Parking Enforcement

The Parking Client Team issued 10 Penalty Charge Notice for Parking infringements in Morden Town Centre on the Day of Visibility.

Youth Engagement

The Team is working with youths around Peel House Car Park, and targeted intervention around the Parks in Morden to divert young people away from criminality and youth violence.

Age UK Merton

Age UK Merton is a local charity that operates independently and provides support to elderly individuals in the London Borough of Merton. With almost seven decades of experience, we are expanding our services to help many seniors, their families, and caregivers. Our organization offers a diverse array of services and assistance to those in need. Our goal is to empower our community with resources to embrace and love later life!





Connect & Befriend

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Our Connect and Befriend volunteers meet our clients once a week for 1-3 hours. The aim of the project is to provide companionship and support clients that have a mental health diagnosis contributing to their social isolation and to connect the client with their community and foster independence. You can not only provide companionship to the client but support them to join activities such as support groups, exercise or social activities.

Full training will be provided, expenses will be reimbursed as well as a DBS certificate. In addition to training, there will be a support group to support the volunteers.

If you are interested in becoming a Connect and Befriend, please go to Age UK Merton website and fill in a volunteer application form or click the QR code!

[LEARN MORE](#)







Merton ageUK

Supporting our community with opportunities to love later life

Volunteering opportunities
Support to help you stay safe and well in your home
Hot lunches
Information & Advice

Come along and find out about all the amazing things we do. There's something for everyone!

Ages 50+

Social clubs and creative activities
Befriending
Exercise classes
And much more

Open Monday to Friday
9am - 4pm

Elmwood Centre, 277 London Road, Mitcham, CR4 3NT

020 8648 5792 • www.ageukmerton.org.uk

