

Issue 11 • June 2026

SUMMER **iN** MERTON

Serving up
your summer
guide to sports,
events and
activities for
all the family

23



© Suzanne Mitchell Photography

10



© Rob Greig



iN Merton

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Thank you, Merton – we won't let you down

© Paul Tanner Photography



It is an honour and a privilege to have been re-elected as Leader of the London Borough of Merton and be able to serve the community I love, and which has always been my home.

Thank you for putting your trust in us. I promise that my administration will continue to work hard to repay your trust and make our wonderful borough an even better place to live.

On page 16, you can read about all the results from the local elections and find out who was elected to represent you and your neighbours.

In the coming months, I will be working with my team and our partners in the community to put together our Council Plan of what we want to achieve for Merton by 2030. This plan will be guided by the promises my administration made to residents: making Merton more affordable, keeping it clean, keeping it safe, and making our borough greener and more welcoming for everyone.

There is so much to look forward to across Merton this summer. First up is Mitcham Carnival, which is back on Sunday 7 June. It promises to be an extravaganza of colourful performances, live music, and delicious food, with a vibrant parade which will wind its way through Mitcham to Three Kings Piece. Find out more on page four.

Then, on Saturday 20 June, London's newest music festival, Start of the Line, will go live in Morden Park, with big name headliners like Soul II Soul and The Hoosiers, along with Mitcham's very own dreamer, Ramz, who will be hosting a stage. See the full lineup and details on how you can get your tickets on page six.

And, by the end of the month, we will be welcoming visitors from across the globe to Wimbledon to watch world-class tennis. Our big screens are back, so everyone can get together in the sun and enjoy the Championships for **free** – find out where and when on page 23.

Whether you're planning a day out or a whole staycation in Merton this summer, we have you covered. This issue is packed with ideas for how to have fun in Merton this summer, with input from local toddlers, teenagers and members of Merton Plus, who are organising the second Merton Pride in September, who have all shared some of their favourite places in the borough to visit.

It's going to be a summer to remember! Find out what's going on near you this summer and get stuck in.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ross Garrod".

Councillor Ross Garrod
Leader of Merton Council

Find out when splash pads and paddling pools are opening on page 12.





© Matt Pereira Photography

Get ready for Mitcham Carnival

Sunday 7 June, 11am–6pm, Three Kings Piece in Mitcham.

It's carnival time in Mitcham this Sunday and everyone is invited to join in the free event.

Mitcham Carnival will showcase a mix of live music, performances, funfair rides, global cuisines, shopping and community stalls. There are plenty of fun activities in store for the whole family – all in one place.

At midday, the parade will travel through Mitcham town centre to Three Kings Piece, with viewing spots at Mitcham Fair Green and Mitcham Market Square.



© Matt Pereira Photography

How to get there

The carnival is easily accessible by public transport, including:

- Three Kings Pond bus stop (bus services: 118, 264, 270 and 355)
- Mitcham Junction train station and tram stop
- Or Mitcham tram stop
- Or Mitcham Eastfields train station

Plan ahead

- Bring sun cream, hats and sunglasses
- Pack a refillable water bottle
- Bring cash and card, as some vendors may only accept one form of payment

For the latest updates, visit our website:
merton.gov.uk/mitchamcarnival

© Matt Pereira Photography



© Matt Pereira Photography

Performances: Community Arena

The Community Arena brings together local organisations, showcasing performances from groups across the community. Expect a diverse lineup, including street dance groups, gymnastics and live music performances.

Mitcham-based dance school Urban Dance City performs at 1.10pm.

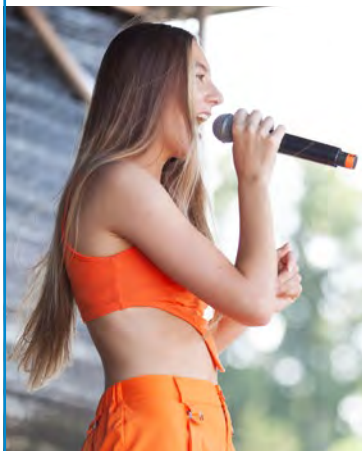
Director, Dawn Mendonca, said: “There will be 100 of our dancers performing. We’ve been part of Mitcham Carnival for over 20 years, and our dancers reflect the culture and diversity of our community.”

Performances: Culture Stage

The Culture Stage highlights local music and talent.

Local singer-songwriter Wiktoria Tarcz hits the Culture Stage at 3pm.

She said: “I’m bringing my own dance tracks to Merton, with big, high energy pop dance vibes – expect an uplifting, feel-good atmosphere where everyone can dance, let loose, and feel empowered.”



© Rebecca Cresta Photography

Stalls and community services

Explore a range of stalls run by local businesses, community groups and council services, offering everything from handmade crafts to essential local support.

Look out for Josie’s Face Painting, Mitcham Bowling Club, Bee Luxx Candles, Age UK Merton, Merton Sea Scouts, Dons Local Action Group, Deen City Farm & Riding School and many more.

Food and funfair

Enjoy global flavours from a variety of food and drink stalls, including Bombay Delight, JamDown FT, Greek Street Food and Polish Sausage and Grill. Refreshments will be provided by Shake & Twist Rumba and Wimbledon Brewery.

There are plenty of fun games and activities to enjoy, along with Drake’s Funfair, for younger festival-goers.



© Matt Pereira Photography



Saturday 20 June,
Morden Park,
SM4 5QU.
£20 a ticket and
under 12s go
free. Get your
tickets now:



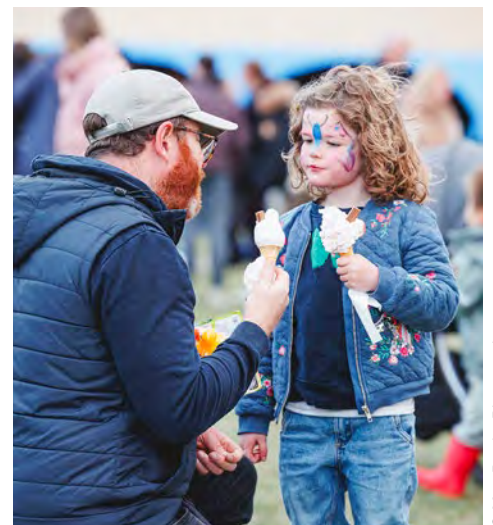
Line up for London's newest festival

Have you got your tickets for the capital's best-value music, art and culture day festival, which is being held right on your doorstep?

Morden Park, stationed at the start of the Northern Line, will be transformed into one of London's most exciting cultural destinations.

The Start of the Line festival is the flagship event of Merton Council's We Are Merton

programme, which celebrates and invests in culture across the borough. Backed by a Cultural Impact Award from the Mayor of London, the festival brings world-famous headliners and local talent onto the same bill, alongside art installations, family activities, workshops and emerging artists.



Catch big name headliners on the main stage:

Soul II Soul

Timeless hits, including Back To Life and Keep On Movin', helped this group achieve global success in the 1990s.

Decades on, Soul II Soul continue to celebrate their rich musical legacy while delivering iconic live performances.

The Hoosiers

Indie pop band known for their feel-good energy and chart-topping singles Worried About Ray and Goodbye Mr A.

Renowned for their uplifting live shows and crowd-pleasing anthems, expect singalong hits and lots of dancing.

Billy Nomates

BBC Radio 6 music listeners will be familiar with this singer-songwriter's unmistakable sound, DIY spirit and incisive lyricism.

Expect a post punk energy and raw emotional edge from a rising star of the UK alternative scene.



L-R: Soul II Soul,
The Hoosiers;
Below: Billy Nomates

Keep little festival-goers entertained

Polka Theatre Playden

The festival's family area will be run by the award-winning children's Polka Theatre. Catch their touring production of Sisters 360, then stay for baby rave, storytelling sessions, circus workshops and arts and crafts.

Dance and dream

Flex FM Dance Tent/Ramz presents: Mitcham Dreamer Stage.

Ramz, the south London rapper, singer and songwriter grew up in Mitcham and has been championing local music ever since. He has assembled a dynamic mix of local and international emerging talent for the day. He will also be performing his own music.

Cultural workshops

Connected Voices Village

Grab a mic and get involved in musical workshops, spoken word performances, open debate and a hip hop karaoke session. Local company Attic Theatre are on the bill, alongside poets and community voices.



Morden in a morning

Here are some ideas for festival-goers on how to make the most of a morning in Morden before the festival kicks off in the afternoon.

Breathe in green spaces

Start your morning exploring the Edwardian rose garden and the wetlands boardwalk in Morden Hall Park, which is free to enter and sits on the banks of the River Wandle. Find out about the snuff milling that happened there and the wartime parties held in the house which were attended by film stars, before it became a National Trust property.

Art trail

From a nature trail to an art trail – see if you can spot all six of the telecoms boxes around Morden town centre, that have been transformed into street art, with designs



The Corner Cafe servers Alessandra Ion and Cristina Antip



A warm welcome from Afrim Sadiku at Bella Donna

inspired by members of Merton's Youth Parliament. There is also colourful artwork on shutters of businesses in Abbotsbury Road.

International flavours

Morden's food scene has independent cafes, bakeries and restaurants, serving recipes from all over the world.

Warm up your dance moves

Get an active start to the day at Morden Leisure Centre, which is close to the festival site and has a swimming pool, gym and classes, including dance fitness.

Or play pitch and putt or disc golf at Morden Park in London's Borough of Sport.

Did you hear?

Merton Council is Remaking Morden by developing plans for a better town centre for people who live, work and study here. To find out more, visit: merton.gov.uk/RemakingMorden





Left: Sofia Shrestha at Tasty Twist.
Below L-R: Mido Elsayed and the team at Sofra Grill; Shahid Zafar and staff at Chai Palace

Mido Elsayed, manager at Sofra Grill, said:

“Morden has got a big variety of coffee shops and restaurants. There are parks, so there’s a lot to do during the day. We’ve been open over three years. It’s a nice place to come, meet friends and chill. If you’re going to the festival, come and see us – we’ll look after you.”

Afrim Sadiku, owner at Bella Donna, said:

“Morden is a nice location and there are a lot of different places to eat and drink. Like many other businesses here, our restaurant is family-run. We started in January and have really enjoyed it. Our customers have been great and we’re looking forward to growing the business.”

Shahid Zafar, chef at Chai Palace, said:

“The big Baitul Futuh Mosque is very famous in Morden. There are lovely parks and it’s a very peaceful area. Morden is also a lot of fun, with many activities to get involved in.

“The ambience in our place is great. We have a fantastic menu – it’s delicious!”

Sofia Shrestha, customer server at Tasty Twist, said:

“There is lots of nature and greenery around the town centre. I can’t wait to spend some time in Morden Hall Park this summer. We’re excited about the event happening at Morden Park, and looking forward to welcoming people to our cafe on the day.

Elena Birsan, owner of The Corner Cafe, said:

“Morden offers a lot of opportunities to spend time out with family and do sports. I have two boys and they go to Morden Leisure Centre to use the pool. Festivals and events in Morden Park bring more people in, which, of course, for businesses, means more footfall.”

These five businesses are offering discounts and special offers on food for Start of the Line festival-goers on 20 June.



A teen's guide to Mitcham

There's so much for young people to do in Mitcham this summer, and most of the activities on offer are completely free.



© Rob Greig



All aboard the Omnibus

Timetabled on Friday afternoons at 3.30pm, there's always a queue of 11 to 16-year-olds waiting to board the Salvation Army's Omnibus, when it stops in Mitcham town centre. This special service, run in partnership with the council, is a ticket for young people to hang out with friends, or seek support for issues they are worried about.



© Rebecca Cresta Photography

Aaron, 13, who attends St Mark's Academy, said: "I really like living in Mitcham because it feels safe and there's always something going on. The youth bus is definitely the highlight of my week. It's a great place to hang out with friends and there's always something fun to do."

2

Mitcham Bandstand

Last summer, more than 50 events and activities were staged on the Mitcham Bandstand, from salsa classes to chess clubs and street opera – all completely free. More ideas from the community are needed for the 2026 lineup at this iconic and versatile performance venue on Fair Green, which was inspired by a bandstand that stood in Mitcham over a century ago.

Jayden, 15, from St Mark's Academy, said: "At Mitcham Bandstand, I really enjoyed doing boxing with youth worker, Ali. He showed us some different techniques, footwork and combinations, and made it fun while helping us stay active."

Share your ideas
[merton.gov.uk/
mitchambandstand](https://merton.gov.uk/mitchambandstand)

3

Mitcham Market

Start your weekend by supporting independent traders on the first Saturday of each month at Mitcham Market, which is held on Mitcham Fair Green.

Take your friends and family along to sample delicious street food and browse a range of stalls selling handmade crafts, unique gift ideas and fresh produce.

Sahand, 13, from Mitcham, said: "Mitcham Market is always full of activity and there's a real community feel there. A lot of people know me and it's a genuine place to spend time, meet people, and have great times with friends."

For updates follow
@MitchamMarket on
Instagram.

4

Mitcham Library

Whether you've got exams to revise for, are borrowing the latest teen book club read or want to try something new, like 3D printing, Mitcham Library is the place to go. There's also a chess and board games club, plus fitness classes run by Nuffield Health. Teenagers aged 14 and over can volunteer to help children taking part in the Summer Reading Challenge.

Merton College student Omar, 16, said: "I live in Mitcham and I use the library a lot, especially when I've got exams coming up. It's a really good space to focus and get revision done, and it's great having somewhere like that so close to home."

Library membership is free. merton.gov.uk/libraries



A toddler's guide to Merton

It's playtime all summer for toddlers, with places to explore, activities to try and plenty of outdoor fun.



Kids Swim Free
Toddlers (and their older siblings) can swim for free, at certain times, in Morden, Wimbledon and The Canons (Mitcham) leisure centres.
merton.gov.uk/kidsswimfree

Water play

When the sun is out and the whole family need a bit of fun, head to one of Merton's paddling pools and water play areas to keep cool.

- Wimbledon Park Splash Pad and Tamworth Recreation Ground Splash Pad will be open from **15 June**.
- Paddling pools at Colliers Wood Recreation Ground, Joseph Hood Recreation Ground,

- Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Fields' paddling pool will open for a special early weekend on **11–12 July**, before reopening for the summer on **18 July**.

Rowan Recreation Ground and King George's Recreation Ground will all be open from **18 July to 31 August**.

- Plus, at Morden Park, there will be a brand-new interactive water play area, which is expected to open from **18 July to 31 August**.

Soft Play

The smallest visitors to The Canons Leisure Centre in Madeira Road, Mitcham, can have a mini adventure in the soft play area, where there are ball pits, slides and tunnels. Suitable for children under ten, with a dedicated space for the under-twos.

Stay and Play

Toddlers and their parents can enjoy Stay and Play sessions at the council's Best Start Family Hubs. During term time and throughout the school holidays, there will be summer sessions between 10am and 2.30pm for babies and children aged up to eight. For timetables, visit merton.gov.uk/hubstimetables

Polka Theatre

This theatre for children on The Broadway, Wimbledon, is staging a production of *There's A Tiger in the Garden* and an aerial show called *Take Flight*, plus a series of performances, including puppetry and a family rave for tiny dancers as part of their Big Dreams festival. For show times, visit polkathatre.com



Zachary, aged three and his sister Eva, 18 months, enjoy going to Family Hubs with their mum, Marie, who said: “They love being outdoors and Stay and Play sessions are great for each of their ages and stages of learning.”



Kiara, three, and her grandmother, Daksha, are looking forward to a summer of fun. Daksha said: “Kiara loves going to the park, foraging for leaves and greeting the ducks. We’re looking forward to playing in the sand pits, paddling pools and painting outside – plus coming to storytime at the library together.”



Yago, 18 months, and his mum, Lucia, are ready to be outside for summer. “We love going to soft play and we’re looking forward to the paddling pools. Yago loves the water, walking around outside, being in nature and playing in the playgrounds.”



Caspian is a regular library user at the age of two. “Caspian loves storytime,” said his mum, Caitlin, “you can’t walk past the library without him wanting to go inside!”

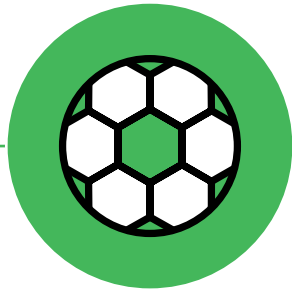
Libraries

There’s plenty on offer for our libraries’ youngest members. Start your morning with a rhyme time, storytime, fun activity or a good book at one of the council’s seven award-winning libraries. Find out more merton.gov.uk/libraries.

A sporting guide to Raynes Park

As London's Borough of Sport, every corner of Merton is full of opportunities to watch elite teams and players and get involved in new activities yourself.

Raynes Park is a neighbourhood where you can take advantage of world-class facilities and even see international sportspeople in action.

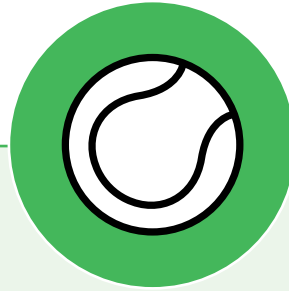


Football

Whilst many residents will have heard the story of AFC Wimbledon's return to Plough Lane, supported by the council, and their remarkable rise through the leagues, not so many will know about the recent successes of Raynes Park Vale. The Vale – who play at St. George's Playing Fields, just off Grand Drive, have recently become Merton's second-highest team in the men's football pyramid.

The club is active in the community, with a youth set-up for boys and girls, from under-sevens to under-18s. Parents of any budding stars can keep an eye out for trials, which usually take place in the spring.

@RPVFC on Instagram and X.



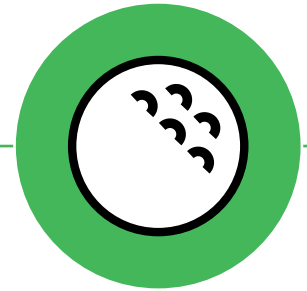
Tennis



The All England Lawn Tennis Club may be most famous for The Championships at Wimbledon, but Raynes Park is home to their Community Tennis Centre, where they offer coaching for children and adults, as well as casual pay and play sessions for anyone who wants to book their top-of-the-range courts.

As well as tennis, they offer regular yoga classes and table tennis sessions, plus they have junior football pitches available to hire.

Website: raynespark.communitysport.aeltc.com



Adventure golf

Just down the road from Raynes Park, in the Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Fields, you can find an 18-hole adventure golf course, which opens for the summer holidays.



The course is suitable for beginners, as well as younger players and, at £2 per round, it is also a budget-friendly family day out.

Website: merton.gov.uk/adventure-golf



Australian Rules Football



If you're looking for some Aussie culture, you don't need to fly Down Under. Simply head to the Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Fields – home of the Wimbledon Hawks. The Hawks are one of the country's top Australian Rules Football teams and even boast players who have represented England.

Caitlin Jones from the women's team said: "Although I'm from Brisbane, I only started playing Aussie Rules when

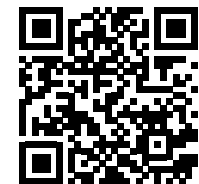
I came to London four years ago. Because lots of the people here are far from home, the sense of community is unmatched – even between the clubs! It's just super-fun and a real slice of home!

"It's also really fun to bring English mates down – some of my friends who are big football fans and had never seen a game of Aussie Rules said it was the best day of live sport they had ever had. They're still talking about it to this day!

"Our women's team won our division last year and have been promoted, so it should be a competitive year, but our biggest hope is to win club of the year, which is more about the match day experience. We're a really welcoming club and we love newcomers – you'll have new family and friends within about ten seconds, if you come on down, as well as having a nice day out in the sun!"

Website: wimbledonhawks.com
Instagram: [@wimbledonhawksafl](https://www.instagram.com/wimbledonhawksafl)

Browse hundreds of activities available on your doorstep in Merton, including free and low-cost options, on our Activity Finder.



Your ward councillors

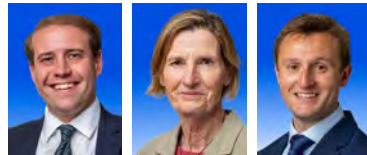
On 7 May, residents across the borough went to the polls to elect their local councillors and have their say on who will run the council until 2030.

have now formed a new administration and will continue to lead the council for the next four years.

All 57 seats were up for election, and a majority were won by the Labour Party, meaning they

You can see the winning candidates for your local area below – if you're unsure which ward you live in, you can find out at merton.gov.uk/wards.

1 Village ward



- Max Austin **C**
- Jan Comer **C**
- Will Orson **C**

2 Hillside ward



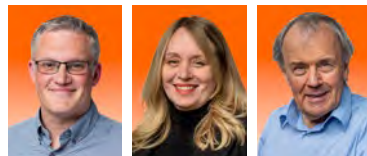
- Sarah Golby **LD**
- Dan Holden **C**

3 Wimbledon Park ward



- Jil Hall **LD**
- Tony Reiss **LD**
- Nick Thomas **LD**

4 Wimbledon Town and Dundonald ward



- Anthony Fairclough **LD**
- Samantha MacArthur **LD**
- Simon McGrath **LD**

5 Wandle ward



- Sebastian Budner **L**
- Eleanor Stringer **L**

6 Abbey ward



- John Braithwaite **LD**
- Klaar Dresselaers **LD**
- Barry Smith **LD**

7 Colliers Wood ward



- Caroline Cooper-Marbiah **L**
- Stuart Neaverson **L**
- Joanna Sieradzinska **L**

8 Lavender Fields ward



- Edith Macauley **L**
- Harry Platts **L**
- Slawek Szczepanski **L**

9 Graveney ward



- Billy Hayes **L**
- Linda Kirby **L**
- Devina Paul **L**

10 Figg's Marsh ward



- Agatha Akyigyina **L**
- Dan Johnston **L**
- Franca Ofeimu **L**

11 Longthornton ward



- Brenda Fraser **L**
- Ross Garrod **L**
- Sonia Phillips **L**

12 Pollards Hill ward

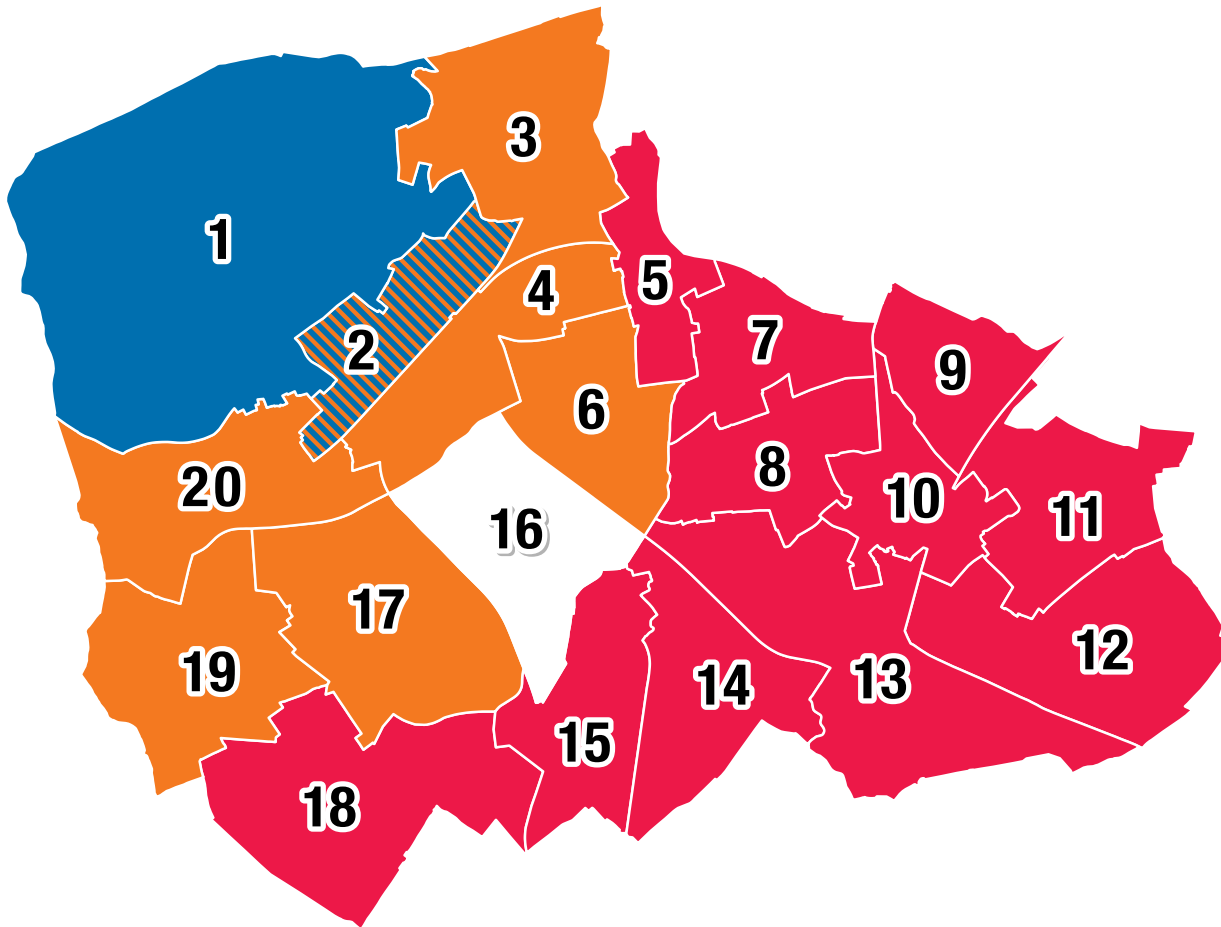


- Joan Henry **L**
- Ryan Rodrigues **L**
- Martin Whelton **L**

Mayor of Merton



Councillor Shuile Syeda was elected as Mayor of Merton for 2026/27 at the Annual Council meeting last month. She will be fundraising for the Dons Local Action Group and Merton Mencap. The Deputy Mayor is Councillor Joan Henry.



70,250
people in Merton
cast a vote,
with an overall
turnout of
45.15%

271
is the record-
breaking number
of candidates
who stood
for election
across Merton's
20 wards

675
staff helped to
deliver safe and
fair elections,
from sending
out postal votes
to counting
ballot papers

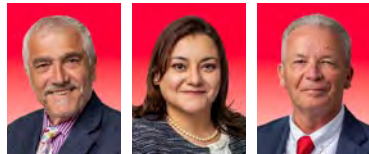
Photos © Paul Tanner

13 Cricket Green ward



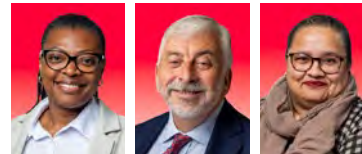
- Michael Butcher **L**
- Usaama Kaweesa **L**
- Gill Manly **L**

14 Ravensbury ward



- Stephen Alambritis **L**
- Val Hoppichler **L**
- Peter McCabe **L**

15 St Helier ward



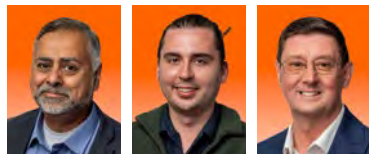
- Nedra Daniel **L**
- Andrew Judge **L**
- Shuile Syeda **L**

16 Merton Park ward



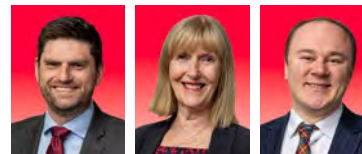
- Edward Foley **MPWIR**
- Stephen Mercer **MPWIR**

17 Cannon Hill ward



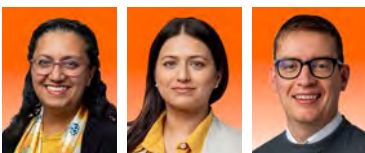
- Asif Ashraf **LD**
- Robert Mitchell **LD**
- Richard Poole **LD**

18 Lower Morden ward



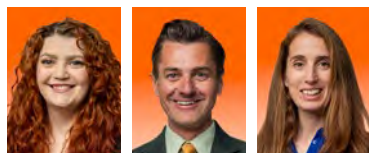
- Dan Hogan **L**
- Sally Kenny **L**
- Daniel Shearer **L**

19 West Barnes ward



- Hina Bokhari **LD**
- Mariam Hakim **LD**
- Robert Page **LD**

20 Raynes Park ward



- Chessie Flack **LD**
- Matthew Willis **LD**
- Victoria Wilson **LD**

Key

- **C** = Conservative (four seats)
- **L** = Labour (32 seats)
- **LD** = Liberal Democrat (19 seats)
- **MPWIR** = Merton Park Ward Independent Residents (two seats)

An afternoon in Colliers Wood

Colliers Wood is a fascinating place to spend an afternoon – visit the market, take a riverside walk and discover some of the borough’s hidden past.



Tucked away from the Tube station and beyond the main road is a quieter, more characterful side of the area, where history, creativity and green spaces sit side by side.

Start your afternoon at Merton Abbey Mills, a lively riverside destination with independent shops, cafes and a regular weekend market. Alongside its permanent traders, the site hosts pop-up stalls, craft sessions and summer events, creating a constantly changing atmosphere. It is a relaxed place to browse, enjoy something to eat or sit by the river and take in the surroundings.

From here, take a short walk to Merton Priory, where the area’s history is still visible today.

Once an important medieval priory, it now offers a peaceful space to explore its story. The Chapter House Museum is open on Sundays from 11am to 4pm until 27 September, giving visitors the chance to step inside its heritage.

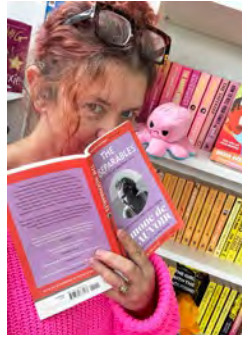
Nearby, beside the river, are the sites of two historic textile printing factories – the Liberty Print Works and the Merton Abbey Works, where William Morris, a founder of the Arts and Crafts movement, was based for 60 years. To finish, walk or cycle along the Wandle Trail, which follows the riverbank, or head over to Wandle Park, where you can watch some of this summer’s top sporting events, including Wimbledon tennis and the Commonwealth Games on a big screen (see page 23 for more details).



Jemma Scott, resident

“I love walking my dog along the River Wandle and then stopping for a coffee near Colliers Wood station afterwards.

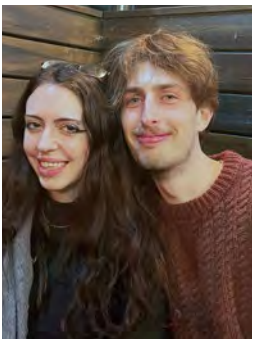
It is a really easy weekend routine. You can go from a quiet riverside walk, to grabbing something to eat or picking up bits at the Tandem Shopping centre, all within a short walk. It just feels very versatile and local.”



Jude Temple, owner, Only Make Believe

“I have been a SW19 resident for over twenty years and was thrilled to become a part of the Merton Abbey Mills community when I opened my bookshop

last year. The locals have really embraced the bookshop and enjoy coming to toddler story times, book clubs and other community events. My favourite thing to do in Colliers Wood is to spend time right here at the mills. I pick up a coffee and a sweet treat from one of our many wonderful independent eateries and sit beside the river watching the enchanted waterwheel spin and keeping an eye out for the Wandle mermaid. Magical!”



Tom and Mia, visitors

“We live in Tooting, but we come down to Colliers Wood quite a lot in the summer, because it is so easy to spend a whole afternoon here.

We will play badminton in Wandle Park or Colliers Wood Rec, then walk along the river and just move between green spaces and somewhere to eat or drink in the sun. It feels really relaxed and everything is close together.”



Valentina Castro, owner, Valentina Castro Jewellery

“One of my favourite things about Colliers Wood is spending time around Merton Abbey Mills, especially in the summer when

everything feels really lively. I regularly bring my jewellery stall and charm bar workshops to local events, where people can create their own necklaces and bracelets. It’s been such a nice way to meet people in the area and feel part of the community.”

LGBTQ+ guide to Merton



© Matt Pereira Photography

Merton Plus is a volunteer-led group, which organises a variety of social events at venues across the borough for the LGBTQ+ community. Founded in 2023, Merton Plus organised the borough's first ever Pride event last year. Members of the group recommended some of their favourite places.



Merton Pride

Saturday 5 September 2026

Following the inaugural event last year, the Merton Pride 2026 celebrations are set to be even bigger and better.

Start the day off at the Pride Fair at Morden Hall Park (from 10am to 3pm) with local businesses and community organisations, before marching along the scenic River Wandle, with live entertainment along the route.

From 4pm, Merton Abbey Mills will host family-friendly performances into the evening. Free to attend.

© Gabriela Astanoae



The Local Cheese Cave, South Wimbledon

“The Local Cheese Cave is a very friendly neighbourhood wine and cheese bar, which is open every afternoon and evening. It is owned and run by Natalie, who is a strong supporter of the LGBTQ+ community. The Cave hosted a cheesy quiz to raise funds for Merton Pride in 2025, and is supporting it again this year. Everyone gets a friendly welcome at their regular wine tasting events.”

Omar, South Wimbledon



The Queen Egg Cafe, Merton Abbey Mills

“This quirky cafe is home to the drag egg museum, painted by the wonderful owner Julie. Julie is also the world’s only clown register. Please visit the cafe if you’re intrigued and want to find out more! The Queen Egg Cafe is a historic site and one of the venues of Merton Pride. Best to check it out on the day of the Abbey Mills Market (usually every other Saturday).”

Oli, South Wimbledon



The Nelson Arms, South Wimbledon

“Disguised as a sports pub (complete with darts and a pool table), this hidden gem sits at the heart of the old Merton community and offers a warm welcome to all. Mary’s karaoke night – held from 8.30pm to midnight on the last Friday of each month – is not to be missed. In my view, it’s by far the campest night out in south-west London!”

Harry, Colliers Wood



Merton Plus Socials

Anyone in the LGBTQ+ community (and allies) are welcome at Merton Plus social gatherings. The group arrange at least three social events each month, across a range of welcoming environments. These include Saturday Brunch at Pawelek Coffee Shop & Restaurant in Mitcham, Coffee & Crafts Chill-Out at The Lantern Hub in Raynes Park and regular evening socials at Metronome Life, Morden.

To find out more about Merton Plus activities and other LGBTQ+-related events across the borough and beyond, visit merton.lgbt

Illustrations © kavya, Frog_Ground, anybickit

© Kirk Pritchard



© Gabriela Astanoae



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF FREE TENNIS COACHING IN MERTON SCHOOLS

The Wimbledon Junior Tennis Initiative visits around 30 state primary schools in Merton each year helping children discover tennis and the benefits sport brings. Since 2001, the WJTI has introduced nearly 300,000 children to the game.

Find out more at: foundation.wimbledon.com

@ WimbledonFdn



WIMBLEDON
JUNIOR TENNIS
INITIATIVE

Anyone for tennis?

Enjoy a game, set or match during the Wimbledon fortnight.



Learn

Whether you're a complete beginner or looking to improve your backhand, get some free coaching on Middle Saturday (4 July) at the Barclays Big Tennis Weekend, run by Tennis in Merton, with support from the Lawn Tennis Association and AELTC, in Wimbledon Park, Cottenham Park and Tamworth Recreation Ground.

Emma Wells from Tennis in Merton said: "Middle Saturday is all about bringing the energy of Wimbledon into our local parks and giving everyone the chance to pick up a racket and be part of it. We want everyone to have a great time on the court, whatever your age or ability."

Free inclusive sessions are also available every Saturday for children and young adults with disabilities or special needs, run by Disability Sports Coach, in partnership with the Tim Henman Foundation, at the Whatley Road Campus of Melbury College.

Find out more
[clubspark.lta.org.uk/
TennisInMerton](https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/TennisInMerton)

Watch

Missed out on a ticket to SW19? Watch the action live on a high-definition big screen, just a couple of miles away from Centre Court itself.

The free, outdoor screens are returning to Canons House and Grounds in Mitcham, and Wandle Park in Colliers Wood, in partnership with the All England Lawn Tennis Club (AELTC).

Watch on 4–12 July from the start of play until dusk.

Play

Inspired by watching your favourite tennis players compete in the Championships?

Enjoy your own match on one of 50 free tennis courts in parks across the borough. The council has invested £1m in refurbishing 49 of the courts, which are managed by Tennis in Merton.

No racket? Hire one from an Equip Sport kit box, by downloading their app.

SHOW UP FOR MERTON

There's a membership to match your lifestyle and goals, helping you move more, save more, and feel good every day.

better.org.uk/merton



London's newest closed-road half marathon

Become one of the first runners to take part in the race around Merton.

Whether you're lacing up your trainers for your first half marathon or chasing a new personal best, Run South London is for everyone.

Expect an incredible atmosphere, buzzing crowds, and a course designed to inspire runners of all ages and abilities, at the event, which is a partnership between the council and The Great Run Company.

The route around Merton will pass some of London's most iconic sporting venues. Run South London is set to blast out of the starting blocks and go the distance to become one of the highlights of London's running calendar.

Chief Executive of The Great Run Company, Paul Foster said: "We're looking forward to an incredible inaugural event in Merton next spring. Since we launched Run South London in March, we've had a fantastic response from runners who want to sign up for one of the first places. We are so excited about the capital's newest half-marathon, which will celebrate everything that's great about south London and is guaranteed to give all participants a day to remember."



The starting gun for Run South London was fired with a 4km shakeout run, which 250 runners took part in this spring.

Runner Oris Ikomi, who took part in the shakeout, said: "I'm really excited to have a half marathon right on our doorstep. It means we don't have to travel across London to take part. I'm most looking forward to the atmosphere, with streets packed with people cheering runners on."

"It's also great to see Merton Council's mission to become London's first Borough of Sport, supporting local run clubs and helping entrants, whether they are beginners or seasoned runners, prepare for race day."



Photos © David Pearce

Get set

Run South London is on Sunday 14 March 2027, starting and finishing in Morden Park. Entries for the 13.1 mile course are now open and places are selling fast, so sign up today.

Join the south London borough team challenge when you enter for a bit of friendly competition with runners from other south London boroughs. [runsouthlondon.com](https://www.runsouthlondon.com)



What's on iN Merton

A roundup of events across the borough this summer.

Sign up to receive our What's On iN Merton e-newsletter for a weekly roundup of exciting events, and exclusive reader offers. merton.gov.uk/newsletter



12 and 13 June

Wellnergy

A wellness festival, divided into six zones – joy, move, mind, nourish, rest and performance – with a packed schedule of talks, activities and workshops for the body and mind. The event, in Wimbledon Park, also includes live music and workouts on the main stage. **Find out more and book tickets wellnergy.com**

27 June

Armed Forces Day

Join us on Armed Forces Day to recognise the commitment and sacrifice of those who have served in the British Armed Forces. This year's parade of military personnel and their families, veteran associations and cadets, will be held in Wimbledon Village **from midday on Saturday 27 June.**

27 June

Farm Fest

Meet the animals at Deen City Farm & Riding School's annual fundraising event. There will be live music and



a farmyard fairground, plus a pavilion full of entertainment for all the family down on the farm in Windsor Avenue, Merton Abbey. **Tickets: Adults £3 and under 11s go free. deencyfarm.co.uk/events**

28 June, 26 July and 23 August

Dementia disco

Free discos for people who are living with dementia to attend with their carers, family and friends. **St John Fisher Church Parish Hall, Cannon Hill Lane, Morden. Find out more and book tickets dementiadisco.org**

4 July

Lift off Festival

A celebration of youth music in Merton by DJs, bands,

songwriters and drum groups will be staged by the Merton Music Foundation at Merton Abbey Primary School on High Path, South Wimbledon.

4–8pm. Free entry with suggested donation. mmf.org.uk/event/lift-off-26

4 and 5 July, 8 and 9 August

Watch the sails go round

One of the Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators rangers will climb up onto the roof of the Grade II listed Wimbledon Windmill on Wimbledon Common and release the brake for a short time, so that the sails can turn. While you're there, visit the museum inside the windmill, which is open **Saturday, 2–5pm; Sunday 11am–5pm. Free entry.**

4 July–5 September

Summer Reading Challenge

Read to the Beat is the theme of this year's Summer Reading Challenge, which all seven Merton Libraries will be



getting involved in. Children aged between four and 11 are encouraged to read six or more books of their choice during the summer holidays. Visit your local branch to sign up and explore the link between reading and rhythm.

merton.gov.uk/libraries

5 July **Morden Family Fun Day**

A classic car show will be one of the highlights of this popular event, which returns to Morden Park. There will also be live music, wrestling, stalls and a funfair. mordenfunday.org

18 July **Canons Summer Fair**

This year's event at Canons House and Grounds in Madeira Road, Mitcham, will celebrate practical climate action. There will be stalls, demonstrations and workshops, as well as food

and entertainment for the whole family. **11am–4pm.** thecanonsmitcham.co.uk

1 August **Flow State Fitness Festival**

Wellness culture will merge with music festival energy at this event in Wimbledon Park, which includes ice bath arenas, workouts, sauna sessions and live music. **Find out more and buy tickets** flowstateh.com

Various dates **Children's theatre**

The Polka Theatre on The Broadway, Wimbledon, has a packed programme of entertainment for children and their parents, including productions of the Rapping Princess, and Arthur, plus a series of events as part of their Big Dreams festival. **For performance times and tickets, visit** polkatheatre.com/shows

Various dates **Outdoor theatre**

The Edwardian Rose Garden in Morden Hall Park will be transformed into an open-air theatre this summer, for productions including Shakespeare's Othello, plus family shows The Jungle Book and Peter Rabbit. **For times and tickets, visit** nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/london/morden-hall-park/events

Various dates **Off The Record men's group**

Young men, aged 18 to 25 are invited to talk about their experiences in a supportive group, organised by charity Off The Record, which provides mental health support for young people. **Tuesdays, 6pm. Vestry Hall, London Road, Mitcham.** talkofftherecord.org/whats-on

19 and 20 September **World Car Free Day weekend**

Apply to hold a play street on World Car Free Day weekend – a chance to close your road to traffic so that kids can cycle, scoot, skip and play games, while neighbours catch up. The deadline for applications is 25 July, for residents who closed their road last year, and 8 August for new applicants.

Find out more and apply at merton.gov.uk/CarFreeDay



Courtside at the Quarter

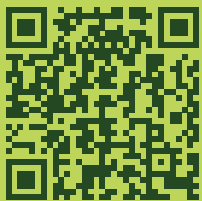
Come and
be part of
the action!

Monday 29th June to Sunday 12th July 2026

Live tennis of our 5-meter big screen
everyday under our sliding roof

Saturday 4th and 11th July 2026

Free strawberries and cream giveaway
Mini tennis fun with Wilton Tennis
Tennis themed markets



Find out more

**Wimbledon
Quarter**

SW19

@wimbledonquarter

4 Queens Rd, London, SW19 8ND

wimbledonquarter.com

Celebrating Carers' Week

8 to 14 June 2026

Building Carer Friendly Communities

A fantastic programme of free events and activities to celebrate those who dedicate their time, compassion and energy to supporting a family member, friend or neighbour.



RECYCLING YOUR FOOD WASTE IS AS EASY AS 1, 2, 3...



What you can and can't recycle using your food waste bin:



Yes please

- ✓ Fruit and veg peelings
- ✓ Egg shells
- ✓ Meat and fish bones
- ✓ Tea bags and coffee grounds
- ✓ Cut flowers
- ✓ Mouldy food
- ✓ Plate scrapings



No thanks

- ✗ Plastic bags
- ✗ Bin bags
- ✗ Packaging
- ✗ Nappies
- ✗ Garden Waste

Don't let your food go to waste

In the UK we waste **4.4 million tonnes** of edible food every year. The average family of four could save **£83 per month**, around £1000 per year, by saving food from the bin.

- **Buy what you need:** check your cupboards and plan your meals
- **Use what you buy:** cook with your leftovers and use your freezer
- **Make your food last longer:** Store it in the right conditions
- **Recycle or compost** what you can't eat



Find recipe inspiration at lovefoodhatewaste.com

Directory

Adult learning

merton.gov.uk/adultlearning

Adult social care

merton.gov.uk/adult-social-care
020 8545 4388 (9.30am–1.30pm)

Benefits advice and local welfare

merton.gov.uk/benefitsadvice
welfarebenefitsteam@merton.gov.uk
lwss@merton.gov.uk
020 8274 4908 (11am–3pm)

Blue Badge parking permits and Freedom Passes for disabled people

merton.gov.uk/bluebadge
merton.gov.uk/freedompasses
merton.bluebadge@necsws.com
020 3324 1877 (weekdays 9am–5pm)

Children's social care

merton.gov.uk/social-care
CandFhub@merton.gov.uk
020 8545 4226/7
Out of hours 020 8770 5000

Comments, compliments and complaints

merton.gov.uk/complaints
complaints@merton.gov.uk
020 8545 3060 (Weekdays 10am–3pm, except Tuesdays 8am–5pm)

Council Tax

merton.gov.uk/counciltax
local.taxation@merton.gov.uk
020 8274 4904 (9am–1pm)

Council Tax Support and Housing Benefit

merton.gov.uk/cts
housing.benefits@merton.gov.uk
020 8274 4903 (9am–1pm)

Councillors

merton.gov.uk/councillors
Conservative 020 8545 3396
Labour 020 8545 3424
Liberal Democrats 020 8545 4770 (Tuesday–Thursday 8.30am–2.30pm)
Merton Park Ward Independent Residents 020 8545 4026

Electoral services

merton.gov.uk/voting
020 8545 3407

Fostering

merton.gov.uk/fostering
fostering@merton.gov.uk
0800 073 0874

Fly-tipping

Report fly-tipping on public roads.

merton.gov.uk/flytipping
020 8274 4902

Freedom Passes for older people

londoncouncils.gov.uk/freedom-pass
0300 330 1433 (Daily 8am–8pm)

Garden waste collection service

merton.gov.uk/gardenwaste
020 8274 4902

Housing Benefit

merton.gov.uk/housingbenefit
housing.benefits@merton.gov.uk
020 8274 4903 (9am–1pm)

Housing register

merton.gov.uk/allocations
registration@merton.gov.uk
020 8545 3305

Leisure

Sports, parks, libraries, events.
merton.gov.uk/leisure
leisure@merton.gov.uk

Licensing

licensing@merton.gov.uk
020 8545 3969

Noise and anti-social behaviour

merton.gov.uk/noise-nuisance

MASCOT Telecare

Helps people to live safely and independently in their own homes. Available 24/7, using technology linked to our response centre.

merton.gov.uk/mascot
020 8274 5940

Parking

Penalty charge notices, parking permits and car parks.
merton.gov.uk/parking
parking@merton.gov.uk
020 8545 4661 (11am–4pm)

Planning

merton.gov.uk/planning
planning@merton.gov.uk
020 8545 3777 (1–3pm)

Register office

For weddings, civil ceremonies or partnerships; to register a birth or death; name a baby or citizenship ceremonies.

merton.gov.uk/register
register.office@merton.gov.uk
020 8274 5777

Morden Park House, Morden Park,
London Road, Morden SM4 5QU
Opening hours 9am–4.30pm

Roads and highways

merton.gov.uk/roads-highways-pavements
trafficandhighways@merton.gov.uk
020 8545 3700 (10am–4pm)

Rubbish and recycling

merton.gov.uk/recycling
020 8274 4902

Schools admissions

merton.gov.uk/schools
020 8274 4906

Snow and ice

merton.gov.uk/wintermaintenance
trafficandhighways@merton.gov.uk
020 8545 3700 (10am–4pm)

Street cleaning and graffiti

merton.gov.uk/street-care-cleaning
020 8274 4902

Street lighting

merton.gov.uk/streetlighting
trafficandhighways@merton.gov.uk
020 8545 3700 (10am–4pm)

Trading standards

merton.gov.uk/tradingstandards
tradingstandards@merton.gov.uk
020 8545 3025 (9am–5pm)

