

WANDLE VALLEY

LOW CARBON ZONE

BE PART OF IT 
SAVING ENERGY, MONEY AND TOMORROW

London CAN meeting – 16th September

An honest view, honestly

Ross Mitchell

London Borough of Merton



MAYOR OF LONDON

www.merton.gov.uk/wvlcz

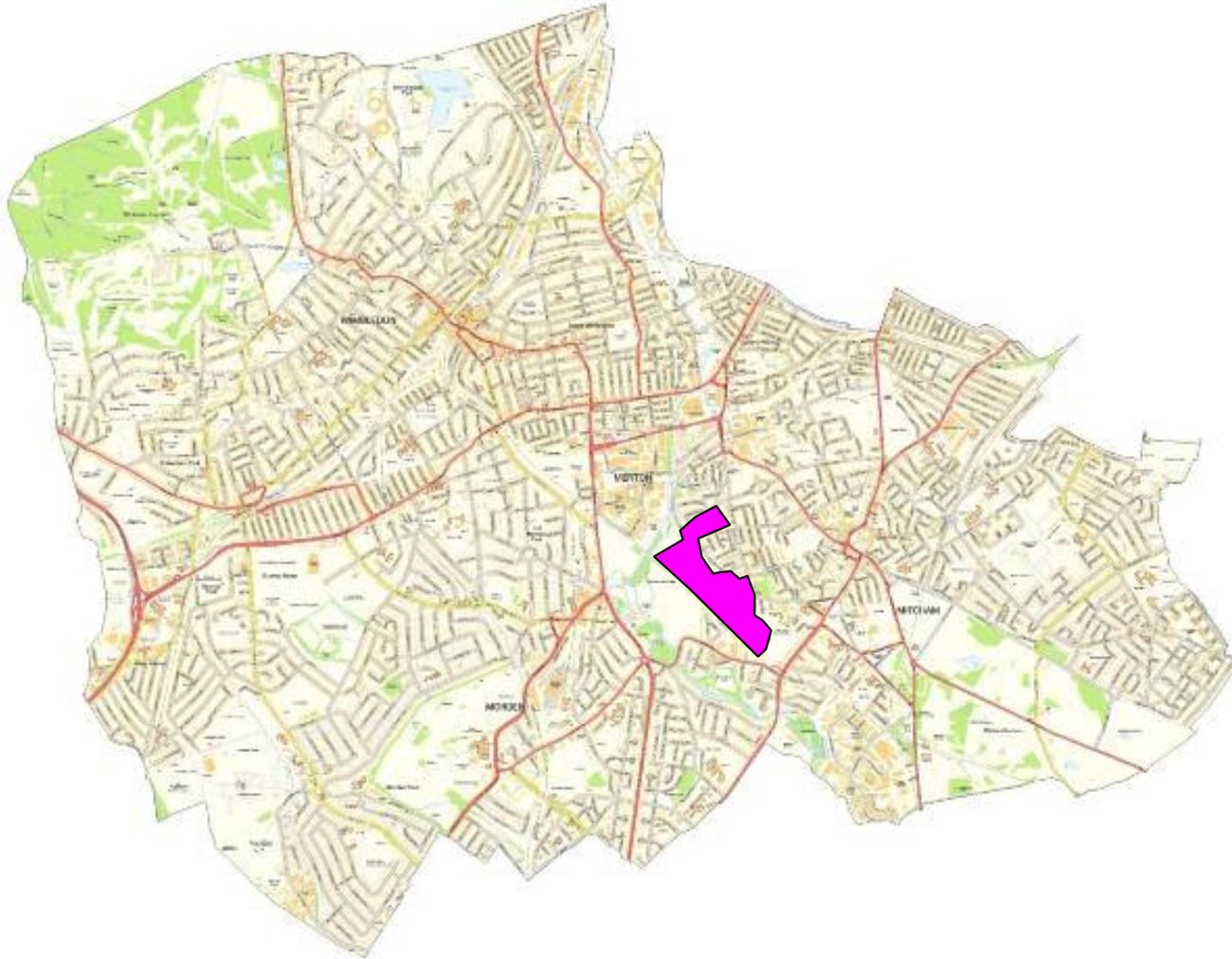
Quick Overview

- Ten zones across London – an experiment in community approaches to climate change
- 20% CO₂ target
- 980 residential properties; 7 shops; 1 community centres; 3 schools; 1 Adult college; 1 medical centre and 1 church
- Population 2950 of which 1/3rd under 15 years, 14% disabled / long-term illness, 39% BAME
- 2 CESP areas
- Original funding: LDA (£275k), LBM (£130k), Groundwork (£53k)
- A holistic approach

Where is it?



Where is it?



Where is it?



What does it look like?



What does it look like?



What does it look like?



What does it look like?



What does it look like?



What does it look like?



What does it look like?



What are we doing?

- Community engagement / Responding to community opinion / Development of community reps / champions
- Installation of simple measures, and referrals to external schemes
- Community building audits
- Installation of PV panels
- Development of skills
- Jobs provision
- Work with key partners
- CESP development
- Food waste, food growing

How well are we doing, what are the problems?

- Community engagement / Developing community champions
 - 5 events, with interest rising from close to nil to significant
 - Extremely hard to get a handle on how it is going
 - Working with community organisations whose working practices don't neatly fit into our own, and vice versa
 - A live environment, so priorities change
 - Communities can be intangible, without defined boundaries
 - Effective communications are initially costly - quarterly newsletter, permanent banners, web and facebook presence (LA restrictions)
 - Area surveys for improved understanding of residents' needs – but how useful are they?

How well are we doing, what are the problems?

- Installation of simple measures, and referrals to external schemes
 - Now installing measures
 - A long time to set up from scratch
 - A mix of inconsistent sources to refer to re CO₂ savings, and still a gap in understanding about how measures interact
 - Results are impressive – advice packs, CO₂ savings, data collection.
 - Not including salary, training, overheads and free measures provided by utilities, it costs approximately £30k to deliver 300kgCO₂/annum to 80% of homes through the simple measures - 12.5p/ kgCO₂
 - Installed – approx. 70p/kgCO₂

How well are we doing, what are the problems?

- Installation of PV panels
 - LCZ as a pilot for funding mechanisms, access to FiT and potential foundation for ESCO
 - Frustratingly slow with much scepticism around how it works. In particular how legal departments respond to development of contracts and/or leases,
 - Each council has prime roof estate and should consider carefully how best to use the opportunity. However, be aware of risk averse officers with sign-off ability!

How well are we doing, what are the problems?

- Development of skills / Jobs provision
 - Good
 - GD's trained, frontline workers trained in fuel poverty, 4 posts filled using the future jobs fund
 - Communications assistant
 - Community engagement assistant
 - 2 x Green doctor support
 - What level of training should community champions receive?

How well are we doing, what are the problems?

- CESP development
 - Extremely difficult
 - Slowed by stock transfer, though now have improved relationship
 - Influenced by SAP results
 - Big issues over mix of tenureship, the requirement to consult residents and how freeholders pay for works, party wall agreements etc.

The lessons that are being learnt

- What is a 20% cut anyway?
- On large scale schemes which require sign-off, best to get the support of the cabinet member from the start
- Consider out-sourcing contract development if timelines are critical
- Play to the strengths of community support organisations, and provide support for their weaknesses
- Accept that money has to be spent upfront to promote scheme
- Treat communities as flexible
- Be patient and enjoy it along the way