

CROYDON COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held on Monday 27th January 2014 at 6.30 p.m. in the Council Chamber

THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR YVETTE HOPLEY - PRESIDING.

Councillors Arram, Avis, Ayres, Bains, Bashford, Bass, Bee, Bonner, Butler, Buttinger, Chatterjee, Chowdhury, Clouder, Collins, Cromie, Cummings, Fisher, Fitze, Fitzsimons, Flemming, Gatland, George-Hilley, Godfrey, Gray, Hale, Hall, Harris, Hay-Justice, Hoar, Hollands, Jewitt, Kabir, Kellett, S Khan, Lawlor, Lenton, Letts, Mansell, Marshall, D Mead, M Mead, Mohan, Neal, Newman, O'Connell, Osland, Parker, Pearson, Perry, H Pollard, T Pollard, Quadir, Rajendran, G Ryan, P Ryan, Selva, Scott, Shahul-Hameed, Slipper, Smith, Speakman, Thomas, Watson, Wentworth, Winborn, Woodley and Wright.

The Mayor spoke of the recent death of Nelson Mandela, saying that he was respected by both sides of the Chamber and worldwide and would be remembered for a long time to come. A book of condolence was available for signature in the Town Hall Foyer.

The Mayor also announced the sad news that Ex Mayoress Mrs Sheelagh Willis passed away on the 28th December 2013.

The Council stood and observed a moments silence in respect of Mr Nelson Mandela and Ex Mayoress Willis.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (agenda item 1)

Apologises were received from Councillors B Khan and Kyeremeh.

2 MINUTES (agenda item 2)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 2nd December 2013 and the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meetings held on the 2nd December 2013 be signed as a correct record.

3 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST (agenda item 3)

All Members of the Council confirmed that their interests as listed in their Declaration of Interests Forms were accurate and up-to-date.

4 URGENT BUSINESS (agenda item 4)

None

5. EXEMPT ITEMS (agenda item 5)

None

6 ANNOUNCEMENTS (agenda item 6)

The Mayor congratulated local residents who received honours in the New Year's Honours list and advised the Chamber that she had written to each one.

Sir Richard Ottoway - For parliamentary and political service

Mrs Rosemary Kempzell CBE - Worldwide president Mothers Union, for services to Family life in the UK and abroad

Ms Michelle Herring MBE - recognising 17 years of voluntary work with St John Ambulance.

Mr Mark Shearman MBE for services to sports photography

Inspector Susan Thomas MBE - who works for the Metropolitan Police in Croydon, has been awarded the British Empire Medal for her service to the police and the community in the borough

House of Commons sous chef, Nick Munting, has been made an MBE for services to the House and also to young people in Croydon.

The Mayor thanked those that had joined in for the Holocaust Memorial Day event and advised that a book for signature was in the Town Hall Foyer.

The Mayor advised the Chamber that she was being 'shadowed' for the day by Igbo Eburnor.

The Mayor also welcomed guests from a neighbouring borough.

Councillor Fisher as Chair of the Mayoralty and Honorary Freedom Selection Sub-Committee made an oral recommendation to the Council that Councillor Dudley Mead be invited to allow his name to be submitted to the Annual Council meeting on 3 June 2014 for election to the office of Mayor for the Council Year 2014/15.

[Councillor Tony Newman advised that Councillor Manju Shahul-Hameed would be the Labour nomination if they were successful in the forthcoming elections]

7 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (agenda item 7)

Under the provisions of the Council Procedure Rules (Croydon Constitution, Part 4A), written questions had been submitted and written replies were given by the relevant Cabinet Member. These were placed in the Chamber and Public Gallery, oral supplementary questions were asked by members of the public. Oral replies were provided by the relevant Cabinet Members.

Oral Supplementary questions were asked by:

- PQ001-14 Mr C Weaving
- PQ004-14 Mr R Canning
- PQ006-14 Mr A Crawley
- PQ007-14 Mr J Cartwright
- PQ008-14 Mr O Lewis
- PQ012-14 Mr M Samuel
- PQ014-14 Mr A Stevensen

[Note the written Public Questions and written replies can be found at www.croydon.gov.uk/agenda]

8 PETITIONS TO BE PRESENTED BY COUNCILLORS TO COUNCIL (agenda item 8)

Petitions were presented formally by the following Councillors in accordance with Council Procedure Rules:

1. A petition presented by **Councillor Paul Scott** on behalf of residents opposing the secondary school build at the Arena site:
2. A petition presented by **Councillors Simon Hall and Carole Bonner** on behalf of residents regarding policing and CCTV.

These petitions were referred to the relevant Cabinet Member. In accordance with the Council's Constitution the reply to this petition will be included in the agenda for the next Council meeting.

9 RESPONSES TO PETITIONS PRESENTED TO COUNCIL (agenda item 9)

In accordance with the Council procedure rules, the printed responses were open to questions from Councillors. There were no questions.

10 BUSINESS REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY & STRATEGIC OVERVIEW COMMITTEE (agenda item 10)

Councillor Steve Hollands, Chair of Scrutiny & Strategic Overview Committee, presented a written report to Council summarising the proceedings of that Committee since the last ordinary meeting of the Council, including matters considered by the Scrutiny Sub-Committees.

Councillor Hollands clarified that there was no pending Ofsted inspection as stated in the work programme.

The following Councillors asked questions

Councillor Buttinger – re the call in of the proposed changes to Tonbridge House.

Councillor Chatterjee – re immunisation rates.

Councillor Lenton – re the Scrutiny programme for the remainder of the municipal year.

In each case the Chair of the relevant committee gave an oral reply.

Council **RESOLVED** that the report of the Scrutiny & Strategic Overview Committee be received.

11 COUNCILLORS' OPEN SESSION ON WARD MATTERS (agenda item 11)

Councillor Neal spoke about Croham Ward, honoured to have represented the ward since 2002 and thanked his fellow Ward Councillors, Cllr Perry and Cllr Gatland for their dedication and hard work for the ward and Council. He also spoke about the half hour free parking in South End, freeze in parking charges, fixed rate evening parking in the newly named restaurant area, new street lighting, introduction of plastic, garden and Tetra pack recycling and welcomed the Westfield/Hammerson development as a benefit to whole borough. Contrast that to Labour 16% recycling rates, pot holes and large Council Tax rises under Labour.

Councillor Chowdhury speaking about Norbury Ward blamed the failing in rubbish collections, fly-tipping, and poor street lighting for dirty streets and increased street violence despite the increase in Council Tax last year. He went on to speak about the changes to the benefit system and bedroom tax and lack of social housing which were damaging people's lives with over 20,000 affected by the cuts. He also said that affordable housing was not reaching targets. He went on to question how any future Conservative administration could build 9000 homes in the next 4 years when they couldn't build 2000 in the last four years.

Councillor Winborn spoke about Fairfield Ward saying the 1960's saw the regeneration of Croydon following the 2nd World War. Commercial buildings are now empty as they are not fit for purpose but thanks to the inspired leadership of Cllr Fisher a fine new town is emerging a town which is benefiting from the excellent transport links to London, the M25 and Gatwick airport, encouraging new companies to come to the town. There are new residential properties, Saffron Square bringing families and couples back to town. She went on to say it is not just about regeneration but also preservation of our heritage and that the draft Old town Masterplan would be published shortly for consultation. Public realm improvements in the ward with including repairs, new paving, shop front enhancements and decluttering, the opening of East Croydon footbridge and pedestrian improvements in Wellesley Road area, improvements to Reeves Corner, the main routes in and out of Croydon like the A23 and new business assisted by the business rate discount would bring in new jobs and more businesses into the town centre. In summing up she said with the Westfield/ Hammerson development there is a lot to look forward to the future of Croydon.

Councillor Flemming spoke about Upper Norwood Ward saying it was an honour and privilege to serve the residents of upper Norwood Ward for the last 4 years and hoped to continue in this role if re-elected. She went on to say she did not seek to run down her Ward or nit-pick over issues that she accepts affect the whole borough but she had a number of concerns relating to her ward, particularly surrounding the environment. She went on to say that she has raised concerns about Highbury Playing Fields and the lack of care surrounding the site. The issues in relation to the site i.e. the anti-social behaviour has occurred because the area is left uncared for. Street lighting has not yet been rolled out; Highbury Playing Fields was all but sold without any consultation, discussion or mandate; Upper Norwood library is now closed 3 days a week and funding has been cut by 65%; the tennis and basketball courts at Upper Norwood Recreation are in a state of disrepair therefore young people have nowhere to go. Refuse collection inconsistent in terms of quality, streets are left littered with empty recycling boxes, green spaces along Beulah Hill should be renamed the forgotten land and the Green Lane estate is regularly the victim of fly tipping encouraged by the dirty streets. The conservation area in Upper Norwood Triangle has seen regular over development and as a result an increase in crime and anti-social behaviour. In summing up she asked that the current administration take a serious look at the level of services to local residents, not just in Upper Norwood but in the North of the borough. .

Councillor Speakman spoke about Purley Ward saying on behalf of his fellow councillors, Cllr Bass and Cllr Quadir they were proud and privileged to serve Purley. He thanked Cllr Thomas and officers for the work they do in Purley including tackling the problem of flooding. He also thanked Sgt Tooley and his team for keeping residents safe in Purley. The problem with the island site is coming to solution and should be developed in the first half of next year and would make a major difference. He went on to say that a square has been created Purley hospital renovated, back into service and providing community care facility. In summing up he said that the development of Purley hospital under labour had been ignored. Sir Richard Ottaway (Croydon South MP) and Councillor Bass were able to raise £11 million from the Conservative led government to regenerate the hospital whilst labour left it to rot and wanted a housing estate on the site. He said that the hospital needed to publicise its walk in centre.

Following each Ward matter the Cabinet Members replied orally to matters raised.

12 Amendments to the Constitution (agenda item 12)

Council considered a report from the Director of Democratic and Legal Services seeking approval for amendments to the Constitution to reflect recent guidance and updates including those to the Tender and Contract's Regulations, and updates to the Member's Register and Code.

Council **RESOLVED**, with no votes against, to:

- 1.1 Approve the amendments to the Council's Code of Conduct as set out at Appendix 1 of the report.
- 1.2 Approve the amended Register of Members' Interests form at Appendix 2 of the report.

- 1.3 Agree that in future all Registrations for Members for Data Protection Purposes will be applied for using the Council's contact address at Bernard Weatherill House rather than Members' individual home addresses.
- 1.4 Note that references to Taberner House within the Constitution have now been removed and replaced with Bernard Weatherill House.
- 1.5 Approve the changes to the Council's Contracts and Tender Regulations as set out in Appendix 3 of the report.
- 1.6 Approve the changes to Part 2 and Part 3 of the Constitution as specified in the report.
- 1.7 Approve the additions to Part 4D of the Constitution as specified in the report.
- 1.8 Note the changes proposed by the Local Audit and Accountability Bill in respect of Access to local government meetings and documents which the Secretary of State may implement by Regulation and delegate authority to the Council Solicitor and Director of Democratic and Legal Services to update the Constitution to reflect these legislative changes when implemented.
- 1.9 Delegate to the Chief Executive the authority to appoint one or more officers as Deputy Electoral Registration Officer(s) to act in the absence of the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) and fulfil the functions of the ERO or to undertake such roles which the Chief Executive may, from time to time, delegate to the Deputy ERO's.
- 1.10 Confirm the delegation to the Council Solicitor, Director of Democratic and Legal Services to make any changes to the Constitution consequent upon legislative changes and extend the delegation to cover any changes necessitated by administrative convenience, such as changes to officers job titles as advised by the Head of Paid Service.

Councillor Fitzsimons raised concerns about the apparent conflict between Part 4 of the Constitution and the Audit and Accountability Bill. He felt that this Part did not reflect the provisions of the Bill. The Director of Democratic Services assured the Councillor that Part 4 will be re-examined when the Bill became law.

13 BUSINESS REPORT OF THE LEADER INCORPORATING COUNCILLORS' WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER AND CABINET MEMBERS (agenda item 13)

The Leader presented the Business Report summarising the proceedings of the Cabinet since the last meeting of the Council, including matters considered by Cabinet Committees.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rules, written questions had been submitted in advance by Council Members and written replies had been given by the relevant Cabinet Members. The questions and answers had been placed in the Chamber.

Supplementary questions were asked by Members of the Council and replies were given by the relevant Cabinet Members.

Each Cabinet Member was asked in turn if they had anything to add to their report. Questions were then invited from the Chamber for each Cabinet Member who replied orally to the questions on specific paragraphs or submitted questions.

The following Members asked questions on the Business Report

Cabinet Member

Leader: Councillors Newman, Hall, Pearson, Letts, Fitzsimons and Cummins.

Councillor Perry: Councillors Kellett, G Ryan and Winborn.

Councillor T Pollard: Councillors Bee, Godfrey and Marshall

Councillor D Mead: Councillors Butler, Bains, Wentworth, Arram and Mansell.

Councillor Thomas: Councillor Collins, Gatland, P Ryan, Speakman, Avis and Kellett.

Councillor O'Connell: Councillor P Ryan, Bains, Neal and Parker.

Councillor M Mead; Councillors Avis, Buttinger and Bee

Councillor Hoar: Councillors Collins, Parker, Flemming and Cummins

Councillor Bashford: Councillors Woodley, Neal, Harris and Pearson.

Councillor Mohan: Councillor Woodley

The following Cabinet Members made announcements

Councillor Margaret Mead: advised that January was 'Love your Liver' month; 7th February 'Ramp Up the Red' a fund raising event for British Heart Foundation, one of the Mayors Charity's and the month of February is 'Healthy Heart' month and there will be a number of events being held in Croydon.

She also congratulated Croydon Care Solutions who have been nominated and shortlisted for an LGC award.

Councillor Bashford: Croydon nominated for a trio of LG Awards, firstly as above;

'Campaign of the Year' for the work in piloting the benefit cap and helping residents affected by the welfare reforms; and the recognition of Customer Access programme.

She went on to thank the staff that had put themselves in the position where they could be nominated for these prestigious awards.

The Mayor added her congratulations to the staff.

Councillor Mohan: Advised the Chamber of a new innovate scheme that has been introduced called SE Assist a scheme to provide loans of between £10k - £30k for social enterprise in partnership with charity Aid Foundation and Legal and General. This will help to generate jobs and regeneration in Croydon.

At 21:20 the Leader of the Opposition moved a procedural motion 1.11.9 to move to the next item of business. This was seconded by Councillor Fisher and agreed by Council.

The recommendations contained in the business report were put and it was **RESOLVED** to:

1. Note the business report of the Leader and Cabinet; and
2. Approve the Cabinet recommendations set out in the Leaders Business Report relating to the Housing Renewal Policy

14 RECOMMENDATIONS DEFERRED FOR DEBATE

There was no business under this item

15 MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

Two motions were submitted for debate in accordance with Council Procedure Rules as follows:

1. Motion for Debate

Proposed by Councillor Alison Butler
Seconded by Councillor Tony Newman

This Council recognises that Croydon's housing crisis has been caused by the failure of the Conservative led government to fund affordable housing and Cllr Fisher's failed planning policies. This Council therefore welcomes Labour's manifesto commitment to make the provision of affordable housing to both buy and rent a priority.

Councillor Butler opened the debate saying that Croydon has a housing crisis which Labour would tackle when elected in May. Housing policy is not just about putting a roof over people heads, it's about given children the best start in life and it's about tackling inequity and poverty and increasing life chance and improving health. The need for secure and decent homes is vital whether you are own occupier, social tenant, shared or private tenant as it affects life chances. She said that 'if we truly want a town where big business invests and smaller business are given the opportunity to start up and grow then we must provide decent home to buy and rent at affordable prices for all'. She went on to say that the Tory administration didn't challenge developers to increase the level affordable housing or those that are holding land for developing hoping to make a bigger profit. In real terms there has been a reduction of 75% in affordable housing completion between 2009 and 2013. She asked "do we want to create a borough when those on average earnings cannot afford to live in it?" She spoke about the lack of development on the Cherry Orchard Gardens site and other sites that had been sold for development when they could have been developed. In summing up she said that Labours ambition for Croydon is one where we can all afford to live, every child get the best education and the street are clean across the borough.

Councillor Dudley Mead, speaking against the motion said that housing was very much a Conservative priority and reminded the Labour group that when they left office in 2006 60% of the Council house stock was of non decent standard. Over the last 8 years the decent homes programme has now reached 100%. He expressed disappointment that Menta had not developed the site (Cherry Orchard) and quoted the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who has said "that developers that sit on plots of land should expect to have them taken away if they

don't use them". He would like to be able to take the land back and it would be at a lower cost to the Council. He also reminded Labour that when they were in power they demolished 2 blocks of flats that would have given 120 families space. Council housing to rent is a priority as is private housing, the current administration have built 104 Council houses, with a further 77 under construction. Croylease has a further 200 more units. There had been no Buy to Let mortgages in the last 2 years as the 2008 mortgage crisis meant it was more difficult to obtain a mortgage and the rental market has increased by 30% in under 2 years. Croydon is one of the biggest boroughs for renting in the private sector and he acknowledged that landlords would prefer to rent to those in work rather than on benefits. In summing up he said that London was a great place to live and more people want to live in London and on their own at that puts pressure on housing in the borough.

Councillor Hay-Justice speaking for the motion said that it was important to have a decent home, for privacy, security and decent living conditions and where you live has an important impact on lives and local communities. Under the Tory led government we are in the midst of the worst housing crisis for a generation, in London there is a chronic shortage of affordable homes even for those that are working. She went on to say that in 1997 the average time to save for a mortgage deposit was 3 years whereas now is it estimated to be 22 years. With demand for homes grossly outstripping supply, rents soaring it is the most vulnerable that are affected the most. She went on to say that many low income families have to live in overcrowded, poor quality homes with uncertainty of tenure and some areas are classed as 'areas of deprivation' this all has an adverse effect on family life. In summing up she said that many large developments only have 15% of affordable housing and that Croydon residents want a council that will champion their needs and come May Labour will take on the mantle to provide affordable and decent homes.

Councillor Perry speaking against the motion opened by saying that the Labour party were pretending they could deliver more affordable housing than the current administration. He reminded them that when Labour was last in power, house building was low and they were missing targets, in 2004 there was a 1500 shortfall in housing in the borough. He asked who was at the helm at that time - Cllr Newman and Butler. He went on to say that the Labour party in Croydon did not understand the Planning Policy and that in Croydon there is a flexible policy that delivers affordable housing across the borough. Every scheme is negotiated to ensure the maximum proportion of affordable housing is secured without making the scheme unviable and each scheme is independently assessed. This approach gives developers the confidence to invest and develop in this town. He went on to say that the current administration is delivering 36% of all new homes as affordable housing in the borough. He went on to say that Labour have announced their policy to enforce 30% as their figure for affordable housing and this would mean there will be no building in the borough, affordable or otherwise. "100% of nothing is nothing" he said. In 2012/3 Croydon's completions were 5.5% above the London average, homes started were 38% above London average and the borough was 8th highest of all London borough starting affordable homes. In the last two years over 1000 new affordable homes will have be delivered in Croydon. In summing up he said that the Labour policy on regeneration highlights that Croydon is not safe in their hands and if

they insisted on 30% affordable housing it would stop the Westfield / Hammerson development and rob the town of new shops, jobs and houses.

Councillor Fisher speaking against the motion said that when Labour left office less than 4 in 10 homes met the decent homes standard, now it was 100%. He went on to say that what had been said in the debate by the opposition speakers is Labour policy that will jeopardise the major regeneration of the borough. By enforcing 30% affordable homes schemes will not be viable and developers will not invest in the borough. He said that the current Conservative administration have brought about the right climate for investment in the borough that they will deliver housing, jobs and new shops to the borough and deliver a brighter future for local people. He went on to say that they would deliver the Westfield/Hammerson scheme, deliver new houses across the borough, deliver 16,000 new jobs over the next 5 years whilst the Party opposite run the town down and drive investors out.

Councillor Newman in seconding the motion said that the decent homes programme was brought in by a Labour government. He went on to say that Croydon was a town in a housing crisis and that the Labour manifesto was ambitious for Croydon and they would be, they would not 'roll over' to developers for a reduction in the percentage of affordable housing, they would not remove the soup kitchens in the town and wouldn't allow rogue landlords to profit from those in need. He went on to say that labour would work with landlords on a licencing scheme that respects the rights of both tenants and landlord. They would set up a housing partnership with house builders, housing associations and others to ensure that there was a strategic overview of Croydon's housing needs. They will use the planning process as it is meant to be used and that care and attention is given to the local population in terms of health provision and school places. In summing up he complimented Cllr D Mead and stated that he was in the wrong party. He said that Labour would work in partnership with Westfield/Hammerson and other developers to ensure that all in Croydon benefit from that investment.

The motion was **put and lost**.

2. Motion for Debate:

**Proposed by Councillor Lynne Hale
Seconded by Councillor Tim Pollard**

This Council agrees with the response to the Croydon Advertiser survey that "there are too many good things about Croydon to choose just one best thing".

Councillor Hale opened the debate saying that Croydon is a fantastic town with great rail, bus and tram networks delivering commuters to their offices and offering residents a plethora of options for days out here in Croydon, in London, the coast or anywhere in between. There is a thriving night time economy with a wealth of places to eat and drink; the fabulous Fairfield Halls attracting top performers, orchestras and shows and all set to flourish with a multimillion pound investment from this Conservative Council. She asked 'where would we be without our Croydon people?' Those who contribute by living, working or running businesses here, the police, health services, the magnificent carers, volunteers and faith groups all cheerfully

contributing their bit to their local communities, day in day out. The Conservative Council, working tirelessly to keep Council Tax levels down - and with the very best local authority teams who regularly win London and national awards – all delivering first class services to residents and businesses in our Borough, and often going above and beyond the call of duty. She also spoke of the fantastic young people - like the 25 members of Croydon Youth Theatre Organisation who sang and danced through the rain- drenched streets of London on New Year's Day - helping secure Croydon 6th Prize and a fabulous £2000 for the Mayor's charities; youth parliamentarians showing the way with developing cyber bullying policies to protect children. The people of Croydon are simply the best! She went on to say that it is the potential which makes Croydon really special and underlines the fact that it is impossible to single out one 'best thing' about the Town. Improving school results and attendance, more funding for health services, reduction in crime, transport projects, West Croydon transformation, development of homes in the town centre and the £1.5 billion Westfield/Hammerson development which is set to create 5000 permanent new jobs and completely rejuvenate the town with a state of the art retail and leisure scheme. In summing up she said that Croydon was on the brink of significant revitalisation. The survey was spot on, there are so many good things about Croydon and we now have a unique opportunity to combine all of Croydon's best attributes to the benefit of our residents, our businesses and our economy.

Councillor Gray speaking against the motion said that the recent survey highlighted the boroughs north/south divide and thanked those who had completed the survey. With the Labour party being ambitious for Croydon it was disappointing that people felt a fear of crime and thought the streets were dirty in the north of the borough. All residents whether they live in the north or the south of the borough should feel proud to live in Croydon. She went on to say that the current administration appeared to prioritise the needs of residents on their postcode. She went on to speak about residents campaigns to retain the David Lean cinema, Supplementary Education Programmes, saving the Riesco collection and closures of libraries. She went on to say that the most harrowing event for residents was the 2011 riots where local people showed dignity when they were being seriously tested. The government have not supported local business and there is a lack of cash being paid out to those affected. In summing up she said that many residents love Croydon and would not live anywhere else and were looking forward to the development of Westfield/Hammerson and the benefits it would bring to the local economy and job market, they enjoyed good transport links and had their own premier league football club that brought income to the area. In summing up she thanked Croydon Radio that now enabled residents to listen to Council meeting saying that it was this level of open democracy that labour would bring to the Council when elected in May.

Councillor Bains speaking for the motion said that the Croydon Advertiser survey confirmed that Croydon is on the up. Whether we look at investment, business confidence, transport, new development education and the sound administration of the council under the Conservative leadership things are on the up. As of today 13000 business based in Croydon, 1000 more than 24 months ago. To invest in Croydon a key factor for new business is confidence and this is demonstrated by the types of businesses coming to Croydon. A grass roots technology revolution is taking place with Croydon Tech City. Cllr Bains then quoted from The Guardian, saying that

Croydon was transformed into a economic powerhouse. In summing up he said that diversity is a strength in Croydon.

Councillor Shahul-Hameed speaking against the motion said she had been living in Croydon for 15 years since coming from India. She spoke of the five stabbing in the last week leaving young people fearing crime, the reconfiguration of youth services, the cuts in family support, increases in burglary and crime rates and increased instances of fly-tipping in the north of the borough. She also spoke of Croydon children having to go out of the borough to attend school due to shortages of local school places. She welcomed the Westfield//Hammerson development but said that the social issues that contributed to the riots were still present. In summing up she said that Labour would crack down on crime and flytipping when elected in May.

Councillor Smith speaking against the motion said he had participated in the survey as it is important to contribute in order to debate a positive comment that there are so many good things to celebrate all that is good in Croydon in spite of a Tory Council. He went on to say that victims of riot still feel deserted and not enough has been done to help them. Youth unemployment was an issue in the borough that must be tackled. The residents have shown that they are ambitious for the town and so must the politicians. We need politicians with aspirations for the Town and there are 115 days before a Labour council will be elected.

Councillor Tim Pollard seconding the motion said that it had been interesting listening to the debate but that the party opposite didn't look like a party that thinks they would take power on May 22nd, and that local people will look at the current administrations record not the 'hot air' from the opposition. Council Tax under Labour's 12 years in power had in real terms doubled, in 8 years of the current administration, in real terms it has gone down. He went on to say that during the debate they had heard a lot of pledges about what Labour were going to do. He said 'in Labour la la land they pop out the back and take the pound note of the magic money tree'. A council has to live within its means, if the party opposite couldn't run the finances when times were better how they will manage in times of hardship. In summing up he said that Croydon is an exciting place to be, what we have seen from this administration is a constant delivery and the people of Croydon will recognise that in May.

The motion was **put** and **carried**

16 TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 22:08.

Full copies of the Council agenda, reports and appendices are available in the Members Library and on the Council website at www.croydon.gov.uk/democracy/dande/minutes/committees