



Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Tony Newman July 2016

Latest News

Clearly Croydon, like the rest of the UK is still coming to terms with the outcome of the European Referendum, the resulting national uncertainty and dramatic events that we have since seen. We have put a lot of work in with our many partners to ensure that we minimise any potential economic impact, or threat to our local economy, as a result of 'Brexit'. Personally I was pleased to see that across Croydon we voted to Remain; however as a Council we now have to ensure that we make the very best of the situation we find ourselves in, and put the interests of Croydon residents and businesses first.

Sadly, there have also been some very disturbing reports of an increase in hate crime across the country as a result of the 'Out' vote. In Croydon we have made it clear there is, and will continue to be, a zero tolerance of any such behaviour. I was thrilled to see our wonderfully diverse communities with cross-party support, come together to send a very clear message indeed, that here in Croydon we are proud of our diversity and it is something that we choose to celebrate.



In May of this year we saw our colleague Sadiq Khan elected by residents across London as the new Mayor of London. Sadiq's forward thinking and ambitious approach for the great capital is very much welcomed, and we see the fantastic opportunities for further partnership working to deliver for Croydon's residents. His approach to ensuring affordable housing is available, is very close to our hearts, as we continue to develop housing across the borough to cater to all tenures. In considering Sadiq's manifesto commitments and priorities, and in collaboration with him, this administration will continue to achieve our promises, and remains as ever, Ambitious for Croydon.

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Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Tony Newman July 2016

Delivering our Ambitions

Over the last year, we have faced many a challenge, both as a Council and as an administration. I would like to take a moment to reflect on the hard work and dedication of each of our staff who, despite stretching targets and with drastically reduced resources, provide us with continuous support to achieve our ambitions for Croydon. Combined determination with innovation ensures that we continue on path to achieve a stronger, fairer borough where no community is held back.

With a heavy heart we unfortunately say goodbye to several members of our fantastic team here, with particular thanks to both Nathan Elvery and Paul Greenhalgh, from our Executive Leadership Team, for their hard work and support during their time with us. This change however does mean that we welcome Barbara Peacock as our Executive Director of People, and following our meeting of Council, we are sure to have exciting news in confirming the appointment of Jo Negrini as the Council's Chief Executive, and Head of Paid Service. I'm sure that you will all agree that we can very much look forward to the fresh perspective and innovation that Jo will bring with her to the role. These are very exciting times indeed; I wish you all every success in your new roles.

By the time this report is considered at Council, we look towards the new academic year with renewed focus, and with several promising projects on the way to delivery. At June's Cabinet meeting we saw a strong focus on housing, and more so with the Mayor of London's priorities in mind. The Council's Brick by Brick scheme has identified room to deliver up to 4,000 homes. Whilst we appreciate the absolute necessity to deliver more, we remain conscious of the varied need levels across the borough. Our Gateway Team have therefore been paying particular attention to delivering more tailored multi-agency preventative work, to aid residents in becoming more financially independent and to help avoid homelessness.

In June we also saw the meeting of Croydon Congress, where the issue of Social Isolation was discussed. As you all know Croydon has a strong partnership and these meetings of Congress play an important role in shaping developments in the borough as we have seen with recent topics - domestic abuse, sexual violence and child sexual exploitation. This is an extremely important issue; surprisingly some figures suggest that social isolation and loneliness can have the same impact on shortening life expectancy as smoking. Some excellent ideas were presented through our table discussions, with a wide range of our key stakeholders.



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As London's Growth Borough, it is no secret that we have cultural improvement and planning on our minds. Investment in the borough strongly supports our growth agenda, and strengthens the ability to make more jobs. The development of Fairfield Halls, for example, is a major element of this cultural investment alongside College Green, and the programme is expected to produce huge economic benefits for Croydon. We are going through a period of unprecedented change and population growth, and these plans are all key to a successful Croydon. Croydon has so many hidden gems, and in reshaping the borough, we have chosen to build on our existing assets to make Croydon shine.

With the summer on its way we have seen it off to a good start, despite the appalling weather. The Inaugural dinner launching Councillor Wayne Trakas-Lawlor into his year as the Mayor of Croydon started the celebrations in May; the opening of the rooftop cinema via the Lost Format Society making a repeat performance; the unveiling of TMRW – a fantastic new tech space and café; the topping out ceremony at Oasis Academy, taking us that little bit closer to the final launch; and of course we can't forget the ever successful Pearl Izumi tour of Croydon, with more to be seen over the next couple of months – watch this space.

Wishing you all a very enjoyable and restful summer.

Tony

Councillor Tony Newman
Leader of the Council



Clean Green Croydon

Cabinet Member Bulletin

Councillor Stuart Collins

June 2016

Latest News

Recent Operations

Two operations were carried out at the end of April targeting Thornton Heath, West Thornton and Norbury. The Neighbourhood Safety Officers (NSO's) observed a noticeable improvement in the area as a result of their ongoing operations especially on the High Streets. Over the 2 days of the operation, 37 offences of littering/fly-tipping and 3 offences of urination were recorded and fixed penalty notices issued.

Time Banded Waste Collections

The fly-tipping clampdown is expanding to 1,800 addresses from West Croydon to Norbury

A council pilot that has cut fly-tipping and boosted recycling by targeting waste dumped on shop front pavements will expand throughout London Road this summer.

By August, over 1,800 shop owners and residents in the flats above the shops from West Croydon station to just north of Norbury station face a fine if they leave their rubbish on the pavement for collection between 8am and 6pm on non-collection days. Instead, all rubbish must be kept inside the London Road properties until the waste collection day or the times agreed with the businesses' private contractors.

The policy was tried from March with 100 addresses in High Street, Thornton Heath, and as a result the council has so far reduced daily collections by 1.5 tonnes and seen an increase in recycling. The council has also saved over £10,000 in fly-tip disposal costs.

Introduced as part of the council's Don't Mess with Croydon – Take Pride clampdown, the new policy came in response to reports that shop owners and residents in the flats above them were leaving waste on the pavement which encouraged fly-tippers and made the businesses less attractive to customers.

Council Neighbourhood safety officers have reported a tidier High Street since the now-permanent pilot scheme began, and so far have needed to hand out just four fixed penalty notices for non-compliance.

Now the drive, known as time-banded waste collection, will widen from 1 July to first cover numbers 1-458 London Road in West Croydon and Broad Green. From 1 August it will extend to number 1565 London Road, which includes parts of Thornton Heath and Norbury.

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As they did before the Thornton Heath trial, council officers have begun sending advance leaflets and carrying out door-to-door visits in West Croydon to businesses and residents to inform and encourage them to get involved.

“Keeping London Road clear of rubbish is a big job, so that’s why we’re expanding our latest tactic that cuts fly-tipping and makes our streets more welcoming to residents and shoppers.

“Every time the council has to clear up someone’s thoughtless fly-tipping it costs taxpayers’ money, so it’s great that this newest part of our Don’t Mess with Croydon campaign will get even more business owners to take responsibility for their rubbish.”

The Don’t Mess With Croydon – Take Pride campaign combines enforcement against the worst offences with getting local people to become community champions and lead litter picks.

As well as prosecuting around 100 people in court since launching the initiative in summer 2014, the council has also signed up over 300 community champions, carried out more than 1,320 business license inspections and encouraged over 240 businesses to sign a pledge to keep their street tidier.

Clearance of Orange bags

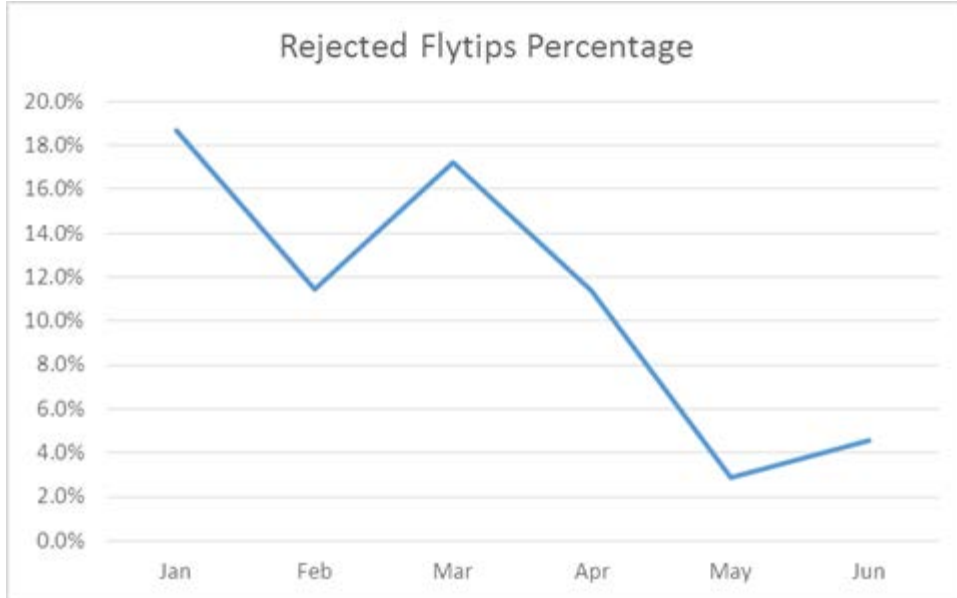
Working in partnership with our contractor Veolia, we have agreed two additional crews at no additional expense to the Authority. These crews will target the fast removal of orange bags used by the street cleansing team to dispose of their sweepings. As the bags are being removed from the street more quickly, this reduces the risk of them attracting fly tipping and litter. We are already seeing a positive impact as a result of these crews, with the ultimate goal of getting all orange bags removed on the same day as the road is swept.

Improved response to fly tipping

Improved working methods have resulted in a more effective response to fly tips than ever before. Even when data on the location of fly tip is limited, Veolia are visiting the street and clearing any fly-tipped waste they find, meaning the number of fly tip reports rejected by the contractor has dramatically decreased. This is in conjunction with ongoing background work on the App and My Account to improve the quality of the data captured on fly-tipping.



Clean Green Croydon Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Stuart Collins June 2016



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Communities

Cabinet Member Bulletin

Councillor Hamida Ali

June 2016

Council launches Croydon Community Grants

Grants of up to £5,000 are being offered by Croydon Council in a scheme designed to tackle poverty and support the borough's communities.

Croydon Community Grants launches on 1 July with the aim of supporting the outcomes and objectives of the council's community strategy, the corporate plan, and the recommendations of the Opportunity and Fairness Commission.

The scheme will support activities run by Croydon's community groups in three priority areas.

- Developing active and inclusive communities.
- Helping people care for each other's health and well-being.
- Tackling poverty and social exclusion.

To be eligible for funding, projects must be based in Croydon and

- show good value for money;
- be from groups set up as not-for-profit; and
- be from groups established for more than 18 months, with audited accounts showing they are financially sound.

Anybody with a great idea that they would like to take further should visit www.croydon.gov.uk/croydoncommunitygrants for more details and to complete the pro-forma application online. Alternatively, they can upload a three-minute (maximum) video describing the project/idea. If the idea is found to have merit, the applicant will be invited to discuss it in more detail.

Councillor Hamida Ali, Cabinet Member for Communities, Safety and Justice

"Croydon is a place where the community already steps up and undertakes a huge amount of volunteering, celebration and other important community-based activities.

"This grant scheme is a great opportunity for small groups within communities to become more resilient, to develop their own ideas and do more for themselves. It will help us to help the community to deliver even more. I look forward to seeing some great and worthwhile ideas."



Communities

Cabinet Member Bulletin

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June 2016

Community Fund

The Community Fund will be cross cutting with an approach that builds on the assets of the VCS, promoting enterprise and social value. It will seek to remove barriers and promote diversity in the sector, allowing new approaches, particularly the grass roots community responses to issues. The new programme will also aim to create a broad range of opportunities for different forms of volunteering from all parts of borough.

The Community Fund closing time/date for bids was 12.00 midday 7 June 2016 and aim to have the outcome of bids announced at the end of July so that the new arrangements can be in place by 1 October 2016.

Croydon Congress

Croydon Congress was held on 21 June and focused on changing attitudes and behaviours towards social isolation and loneliness. The event was attended by over 167 representatives from the public, business, community, faith and voluntary sectors and provided an opportunity for delegates to come together to discuss the key issues and look at what can be done to change attitudes and behaviours in Croydon.

Delegates heard from Elaine Rashbrook, National lead for older people, Public Health England, Rachel Flowers, Director of Public Health, Croydon Council, Miriam Christie, Campaign to End Loneliness, Simon Dixon, ACEVO, Harriet Butler, Home-Start Croydon, Richard Pacitti, Mind in Croydon, Stuart Routledge, Age UK Croydon, Sarah Burns, Croydon Voluntary Action and Sarah Baker, Croydon Safeguarding Adults and Children Boards. As well as presentations, two short film clips was screened. The film portrayed some of the issues faced by some people feeling socially isolated or lonely.

As part of the event delegates were asked to make a pledge, either a personal one or one on behalf of an organisation.

Feedback from the event has been incredibly positive, with delegate satisfaction levels increased considerably from the last Congress event. The actions and discussion points will be written up into a formal report over the next month.



Communities Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Hamida Ali June 2016



BIG LUNCH & CELEBRATION OF THE QUEENS BIRTHDAY 2016

Croydon residents once again showed their community spirit by putting on street parties on Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th June 2016.

Every year the Big Lunch sees communities from all corners of the borough sitting down to eat and chat with their neighbours.

A huge thank you to all our Croydon Big Lunchers that showed their support this year! Thanks to our residents, approximately, 69 Big lunches and street parties took place this year. The Mayor of Croydon Cllr Wayne Trakas-Lawlor was also delighted to pop along to support as many parties as he was able to attend.

Here is a sampling of some of the very many parties that took place:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/yourcroydon/albums>



Communities Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Hamida Ali June 2016



Inter-faith bike ride and Big Picnic

Faiths Together in Croydon (FTIC) and the Council hosted an Inter-faith bike ride and Big Picnic on Sunday, 5 June 2016. Nearly 30 riders took part in this unique bike ride through Croydon which involved visits to our diverse faith centres and finally concluded with a picnic in Park Hill Recreation Ground.

It was a fun day out for everyone - young and old - and a great way to celebrate the diversity of Faith in Croydon. On the day, many residents who were not cycling took the opportunity to both visit the faith centres at the scheduled times and also join the Big Picnic at the finish line.



Communities

Cabinet Member Bulletin

Councillor Hamida Ali

June 2016





Safety and Justice

Cabinet Member Bulletin

Councillor Hamida Ali

June 2016

Latest News

CCTV staff awarded for helping to stop crime

Two Croydon Council CCTV operators have been recognised in this year's Metropolitan Police Local Authority CCTV Awards. London's surveillance camera commissioner, Tony Porter, presented awards to Carrie Russell and Colin Skilton at New Scotland Yard on Friday 3 June.

Carrie was carrying out a routine camera patrol in the town centre when she noticed a youth carrying what appeared to be a knife. Carrie radioed the information to the police and switched the camera feed to the Met's communication centre at Lambeth, enabling the police control operator to see the suspect.

A police car was alerted but the suspects moved off before it arrived; Carrie, however, followed them on camera, directing the unit to intercept. The police arrested a youth for possession of an offensive weapon after he was spotted showing off his knife while in the group.

Carrie said: "I'm very happy and excited to receive this award. It is the second year I have been nominated and I feel a great pride in doing a good job. It's also good that the CCTV team is getting noticed for its crime prevention work – the ceremony was a good opportunity to toast this."

Anti-domestic abuse worker gains police commendation

Helping a woman turn her life around has led to a Borough Commander Commendation for Claire Brookes.

Claire was nominated for her help in bringing a successful prosecution resulting in a three year custodial sentence and an indefinite restraining order against a man who had carried out serious assaults on his partner, forcing her into sex work to earn money for him.

Claire worked with Croydon police's temporary DC Sadia Hayat, a substance mis-use worker and other support agencies to help the women bring her former partner, and pimp, to court. The victim is currently waiting for re-housing with the aid of a support group.

The commendation was agreed by a Quality Service Report panel, which consisted of detective superintendent, an inspector, Sergeant and police officer.



Safety and Justice Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Hamida Ali June 2016

Delivering our Ambitions

Anti-domestic abuse services upped for Euro games

The Euro Championships are now underway, and while most people will be enjoying a month of football, others will become victims of domestic abuse.

Anyone needing support should contact the council's Family Justice Centre on 020 8688 0100. If in immediate danger, they should call the police directly on 999.

During the Euro games, a rapid response vehicle will be used to provide greater support to police response teams, should the rate of call outs to domestic abuse incidents increase.

The Family Justice Centre and Croydon police's community safety unit (CSU) have been piloting the rapid response car scheme since February to provide immediate help and support to borough victims when they call the police.

The vehicle has been used for two eight-hour shifts a week, staffed by an FJC independent domestic violence advocate (IDVA) and a CSU officer, and used specifically to attend incidents of domestic abuse within the borough that require the immediate intervention of specialist support.

The support service also provides advice and support to leave the home immediately in order to prevent further abuse should the person wish.

Chief Superintendent Andy Tarrant, Croydon's borough commander, said: "The Met will not tolerate domestic abuse in any circumstances. It's a serious crime and we're committed to working with all our partners and local communities to safeguard victims and pursue offenders. My message to victims is: if you feel you cannot tell the police, please tell someone – there is a wide range of third-party reporting facilities available."

The National Domestic Violence Freephone Helpline offers round-the-clock support to those experiencing domestic abuse. Call free on 0808 2000 247, or visit www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk/ for more information.

Working Together

Town-centre pound store prosecuted for knife sale

Poundworld Retail Ltd appeared at Croydon Magistrates' Court on 16 May and was fined £4,000 and ordered to pay costs after being found guilty of selling a knife to a person under the age of 18. The total penalty, including victim surcharge, amounted to £8,520.

The court heard that, as part of a test-purchasing exercise conducted by the council's



Safety and Justice Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Hamida Ali June 2016

trading standards department, two 14-year-old volunteers went to the store's North End branch on 28 May 2015 and, after selecting a kitchen knife from a display, took it for payment to one of the tills.

It seems that Poundworld, while aware of the law, and its responsibilities under the law, was operating a tick-box system as regards its branches, and failing to ensure that its rules were being adhered to. The company must realise the importance of doing more to ensure that things are being done correctly in its branches, with initial training, follow-up and refresher training, and the monitoring of continued performance. Knives in the wrong hands present a very real danger, and it's vitally important that robust steps are taken to prevent under-age sales.

In this case, knives in the store were on open shelves with no warning signs visible. Had the knives been displayed behind the tills, it would have given staff a reminder, when a sale was being made, to check that the customer was not under age.



Children, Young People and Learning Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Alisa Flemming June / July 2016

Latest News

CALAT's new web enrolment and new website launched

On Monday 20th June the CALAT web enrolment and new website project was launched to the public. After months of planning, testing and design the new website offers learners a clean and easily navigable interface to find out about CALAT, the course areas on offer, it's learners and lots more whilst the web enrolment portal allows on-line registration and course payments, academic financial assistance applications and in-depth course details.

The team responsible for the project have all worked hard to deliver a robust and user friendly product and are really proud of what they have achieved and, through consultations with their learners, CALAT will be able to continually improve and finesse its on-line presence ensuring it remains a firmly customer focussed product and grows with the service.

www.calat.ac.uk

Contact Officer Jim Austin, Head of Adult Learning

Croydon Best Start is up and running



Croydon Best Start went live on the 1st April 2016. Bringing together health visitors, the family nurse partnership, children's centres, early learning, midwives, early help, social care and the voluntary, community and faith sectors in trans-disciplinary teams. Croydon Best Start aims to ensure babies and children have the best start in life. We work closely with mothers, fathers and other carers to co-design services so that they respond to the needs of families.

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Children, Young People and Learning Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Alisa Flemming June / July 2016

The Best Start transformation is supported by £1.48M funding from the DCLG and aims to maximise early intervention opportunities so that families receive the help they need as early as possible, helping to reduce later and more costly interventions.

There are five strands to Croydon Best Start delivered across 3 planning areas.

Best Start Programme Strand	Provision 2016-2018
1. Child development and school readiness	Delivered by designated children’s centres
2. Community, Parenting Aspirations & Parenting Skills	Delivered in local communities using an asset-based approach, this strand will develop and deliver a strong community offer of peer-to-peer support.
3. Early Help Pathway / Targeted Family Support	Delivered by a dedicated locality based early help team, this strand ensures families get help when they most need it.
4. Best Start Early Learning Collaboration	Led by Crosfield Nursery School in partnership with Calat, Portland Bill Pre-school and the New Addington Children’s Centre, the collaboration will deliver peer-to-peer learning across early years settings.
5. Child and family health and life chances	Blended teams of practitioners supporting the child and family journey during their crucial early years.

Croydon Best Start is a partnership between Croydon Council and Croydon Health Services The Early Learning Collaboration went live on the 1st June 2016 and the community, parenting and parenting aspirations will go live in July 2016. A whole range of new services and activities designed to build family and community resilience will be launched from September 2016.

Centres delivering Best Start activities display the Best Start logo



Over the next six months we will embed integrated working, ensuring that all families from pregnancy to school become Best Start families. We will also be starting to collect evidence of the difference we are making using our Best Start outcomes framework.

Stop press.....

Croydon Best Start has been awarded runner up in the category of ‘Locality Award for Infant Mental Health Inclusion in the UK’ in the inaugural Infant Mental Health



Children, Young People and Learning Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Alisa Flemming June / July 2016

Awards. The awards were announced on 9th June as part of a high profile national event, held as part of Infant Mental Health Awareness Week 2016.

You can contact us on croydonbeststart@croydon.gov.uk and you can like us at www.facebook.com/croydonbeststart

For further information please contact Debby.maccormack@croydon.gov.uk

Delivering our Ambitions

Reception offers 2016

Monday 18 April was national offer day. All parents of children due to start school for the first time in September (who applied by 15 January 2016) received the outcome of their application. We were able to offer places to all applicants, and we have sufficient remaining places to offer to those who applied late to those moving to the borough.

Online applications – 100% applied online

This year (again) 100% of our parents/carers applied for online for a place. All online applicants received their outcome via email. We sent paper letters to those who did not get their first preference school. The letters set out how to accept a place and full details of waiting list and appeals processes. Offers continue to be made from waiting list lists and this will continue throughout the summer.

Preference offers 2016

The table below shows the number and percentage of preference offers made to Croydon residents. This information relates to applicants who applied on time.

Total applications 2016	First preference offers	Second preference offers	Third preference offers	Fourth preference offers	Fifth preference offers	Sixth preference offers	Alternative offers*
4979	4231	435	123	51	22	13	104
%	85.0	8.7	2.5	1.0	0.4	0.3	2

*An alternative offer means that we were unable to offer a school listed on the application form so we offered the nearest school with an available place.

The percentage of first preference offers rose by just under 3% to **85%** this year and the percentage of alternative offers decreased slightly. The percentage of parents receiving one of their first three preference schools was **96.2%**.



Children, Young People and Learning Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Alisa Flemming June / July 2016

Contact Officer: David Butler, Head of School Standards, Commissioning and Learning Access.

Working with Partners

Children and Families Partnership

The Children and Families Partnership has agreed five priorities which will be the focus of its work in 2016/17. It has also identified three cross-cutting themes that under-pin all the work it does.

Croydon Children and Families Partnership priorities for 2016-17

- Reduce child poverty
- Reduce childhood obesity
- Improve health outcomes for Looked After Children
- Improve emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people
- Provide the right help at the right time

Cross cutting themes

- *What do children and young people tell us?*
- *How do we support our young people to build stronger relationships, including reducing bullying?*
- *How do we support parents and carers?*

London Play support play streets across London and chose to film their new video in Croydon. London Play wanted to show how play streets 'unlock happiness right on your doorstep' and found this at Love Lane. You can watch the video on the Croydon Play Streets Facebook page or at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o2PSBjpLbJY>



At our last Board meeting we heard from some students at Archbishop Tenison's CE High School who told us about the exciting work they were doing getting primary children involved in sport. To prepare for this the students successfully completed the Partnership's safeguarding training.

The Partnership's e-learning is free for anyone who lives or works in Croydon. There are currently 30 courses on offer including autism awareness, communication, domestic abuse, e-safety and data protection. These courses are important for those working with children and families but are also for parents and carers, young people, or anyone who just wants to learn more.

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Children, Young People and Learning Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Alisa Flemming June / July 2016

We are registering over 300 new users each month and their feedback on the courses is overwhelmingly positive: 98% 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that they will be able to apply the knowledge they had gained (1144 responses).

The e-learning is a great way to improve the knowledge and skills of our workforce and for residents to increase their learning and develop their CVs.

Contact Officer: Maria Nawrocka, Children and Families Partnership Manager

Engaging Fathers Across Croydon Project 2016

Project Definition

This is a long term landmark project; to improve the engagement of fathers in Universal, Early Help and Specialist Children's Services. This project is supported by senior managers within Early Help, Family Support and Children Social Care and by the Local Safeguarding Children Board, the Early Help Board, the Gateway Programme and the Children and Families Partnership Board.

The Project is coordinated and supported by the organisation 'Working with Men' who are resourcing a fathers' worker, offering strategic support throughout the life of the project as well as supporting an independent evaluation.

If you want to know more, want to attend training or want to know how you can better engage and work with fathers then please contact Engagingfathers@croydon.gov.uk



Culture, Leisure and Sport Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Timothy Godfrey July 2016

Latest News

Heritage Festival

From 18 – 25 June 2016, Croydon Clocktower acted as a host venue for Croydon Heritage Festival 2016. As part of the festival, the Museum of Croydon have been delivering family creative workshops, tours of the galleries and collections and a display focussing on the role of Conscientious Objectors during the First World War, which was displayed at The Quaker Hall, Croydon as well as the Clocktower atrium. It was great to have the support of the Museum of London Archaeology Time Truck in Croydon, highlighting our own valuable offer of Museum and Riesco Gallery

Summer reading challenge 2016



bigfriendlyread.org.uk

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Culture, Leisure and Sport Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Timothy Godfrey July 2016

Join up at your local library and be part of the nation's biggest reading scheme for children aged 4 -11 years! The challenge is to finish reading 6 books to be awarded a medal and certificate.

The theme for this year's Summer Reading Challenge is The Big Friendly Read and celebrates 100 years since the birth of Roald Dahl.

The challenge runs from Saturday 16 July to Saturday 10 September.

Delivering our Ambitions

Museums



The Museum of Croydon's latest exhibition of works from the Croydon Art Collection opened on Tuesday 17 May. 'Our paintings your favourites' features 16 paintings which were selected and interpreted by the Front of house volunteer team, as well as a 'painting of the month' section which will be changed throughout the duration of exhibition. Our volunteers

took part in two workshops, led by officers from the Museum & archives team, to learn about exhibition design, writing text and practical display and picture hanging skills. The workshops were devised to develop the skills of our workforce and the overall aim of the exhibition is to encourage a debate about art and culture in Croydon. 'Our paintings your favourites' is on display in the Museum of Croydon Exhibition Gallery at Croydon Clocktower until Saturday 1 October 2016, Tuesday – Saturday, 10.30am – 5pm.

Library

During May, there were a total of 172,886 visits. This is an increase of 3.5% when compared with the 167,036 visits in May 2015. Special mention must go to Central Library (+12.73%); New Addington Library (+20.34%); and South Norwood Library (+10.78%) for their exceptional rise in footfall this month.

Visits to web and online resources have increased by 17.44% this month. May 2016 has received 28,800 total web and online visits, compared to 24,524 in 2015. Visits to the website (16,533) are 12.78% higher than 2015 (14,660).

In May, there were a total of 736 events and activities across the libraries, attended by 9,085 people, an increased attendance of 35.94% when compared with 2015.

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Culture, Leisure and Sport Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Timothy Godfrey July 2016

Club Soda

Founded in 2009, Club Soda is a pioneering not for profit arts organisation led by the ideas and creativity of people with learning disabilities. They support people to achieve positive outcomes for themselves and the learning disabled community, by providing exciting and engaging opportunities for people to take part in the arts. Read their Impact Report 2015/16 here;

https://issuu.com/olivertipper/docs/cs_ir_2015_16_lowres_1

Croydon Heritage Festival

The Museum of Croydon hosted the Croydon Art Society's exhibition at Croydon Clocktower in April / May and will be working with them again to host their annual autumn show.

The Museum of Croydon is developing a partnership project working with RISEgallery, Croydon to improve access to the Croydon Art Collection. The aim of this joint initiative is to enhance the publicly accessible catalogue of key works within the collection, leading to a jointly curated exhibition of works to coincide with the Ambition Festival.

Grange Park, Old Coulsdon

A new, inclusive play area will be built in Grange Park, Old Coulsdon this summer. The Friends of Grange Park have raised £100,000 for the project including a £50,000 grant from Biffa and £19,999 from The London Marathon Charitable Trust. The Friends group have worked closely with the Councils Parks Team, the local community and schools to design the new facilities which reflect the areas local history.

The playground will provide accessible, inclusive, fun and challenging play experiences for children up to 11 years of age. The 'River Bourne' path runs through the play area past the plane waiting to take off from Kenley Aerodrome and the train waiting at Coulsdon Station.



Culture, Leisure and Sport Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Timothy Godfrey July 2016



The Friends are keen to raise more funds for other improvements and activities in the park in the future.

AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON



Culture, Leisure and Sport Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Timothy Godfrey July 2016

Fairfield Halls refurbishment commences

In February, Croydon Council submitted a detailed planning application for the £750m regeneration project for the Fair Field area, which will see a revitalised Fairfield Halls, new homes and public realm and a new purpose-built college at the heart of a vibrant arts and educational quarter.

Fairfield Halls will close on 15 July 2016 to enable the development to take place, and the two-year closure will allow for the £30m transformation of the ageing building into a spectacular arts and cultural centre, which will include comprehensive refurbishment of everything from the box office to the 1,800-seat concert hall and the 755-seat Ashcroft Theatre.

As the building is handed over to the project team we must take this opportunity to thank the staff and volunteers that have worked so hard over many years to ensure Croydon benefited from as strong a programme as possible.

It is exciting to be at the point where we begin to match our Ambitions to the physical changes and work to develop a programme that is equally ambitious and reaches existing and new audiences.

National Trust Project – Edge City: Croydon

National Trust London in partnership with Croydon Council delves into the contemporary heritage of Croydon and shines a spotlight on the borough as one of the most important examples of the post-war ambition to build a new society. Hot on the heels of the National Trust openings of the Balfour Tower and Southbank Centre, the project aims to change the perception of heritage from simply country houses and coastlines, and celebrates the real places in which people live, work and play.

Running from 16 to 24 July, the tours will include Fairfield Halls and nearby Amp House and No1 Croydon. Tickets and information will be available at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/london



Culture, Leisure and Sport

Cabinet Member Bulletin

Councillor Timothy Godfrey

July 2016

They will delve into the craftsmanship and care that went into these concrete constructions, the relationship of function and form throughout the buildings, and their reception and use over more than half a century.

From original 1960s machinery rooms, to dressing rooms, green rooms and more, the tour presents the iconic building at a unique turning-point in its history.



Finance and Treasury

Cabinet Member Bulletin

Councillor Simon Hall

July 2016

Outturn for 2015/16

Despite despite the massive budgetary challenges and in-year funding cuts from central government and unfunded demand pressures, the outturn for 2015/16 was a surplus of over £1 million.

This shows how robust the financial and operational management of the Council is and the willingness of this administration to take the necessary proactive measures to manage the Council's pressures.

This has been done whilst advancing the Ambitious for Croydon manifesto on which this administration was elected.

Medium Term Financial Strategy

The update to the medium term financial strategy has been reported to the July Cabinet. This shows the incredible progress made to address the huge financial challenge being imposed on us by central government.

Active work is currently taking place to plan how this will be met whilst continuing to deliver our manifesto commitments.

The key risks, at the current time, relate to the impact of Brexit and possible further government actions, be it on direct core funding for the council or on other measures which impact on demand, such as welfare reform, education funding, housing policy and unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

Contracts and Commissioning

We are continuing to implement the 'Make or Buy' model for services, move away in many cases from major long all-encompassing outsources and increase the level of contract monitoring and management, to ensure better value for money, improved services, greater local employment and more flexibility.

For example, in Facilities Management, the transition, from a 'Total FM' to a series of separate lots, and some insourcing, has been successfully completed.

IT

The process of moving council staff to much more modern and fit-for-purpose equipment and systems is currently being rolled out. This will enable digital and enabling savings, increased productivity, improved joined-up working, increased flexible and remote working.

For members, it has been agreed to move to 'Bring Your Own Device'. This has included a one-off payment to members to assist them in having the requisite equipment.

Electoral Register

The hard work on the 1 December Electoral Register and since has seen the electorate back up to the levels from pre- Individual Elector Registration.

Local Government Boundary Review

A presentation was made to Full Council on 23 May 2016. Since then, the Council has submitted its sizing report, proposing the retention of a 70 seat council and incorporating much greater devolution to communities and their councillors. This submission incorporated population and electorate projections, which shows that, with 70 councillors, each councillor will represent over 4,000 local government electors. It also showed the disparity between ward populations, with a quarter of the current wards being outside the 10% tolerance and the current Fairfield ward being 51% oversize! We will know the Boundary Commission's decision on sizing at the end of this month and we will then move to the next phase, regarding warding.



Transport and Environment Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Stuart King June 2016

Introduction

I am delighted to have been asked by the Leader to be the lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment. My Deputy Councillor Pat Ryan and I, look forward to working with residents and businesses – as well as our fellow councillors, on this important and challenging brief.

My portfolio responsibilities include:

- Air quality & environment
- Capital delivery (public realm)
- Cycling
- Flood risk management
- Highways
- London Taxi Card, Blue badge & concessionary fares
- Parking
- Physical infrastructure
- Strategic transport
- Street lighting

20mph limit proposals for Area 2 'North-East Croydon'

Proposals for a second phase of 20mph speed limits were given the green light by residents in the north-east of the borough in May. Residential streets in parts of Addiscombe, Ashburton, Woodside, Shirley, Heathfield, Fairfield, and parts of Selhurst and South Norwood will benefit from the new 20mph speed limit, but major through-roads will not be affected.

In coming to its decision, the council took into account those residents' views that were expressed during the consultation process, which saw a 52 to 48 percentage majority in favour of the scheme's introduction (1600 vs 1491).

This is a popular policy when you speak to residents on the doorstep or at the school gate. People recognise that the use of extensive 20mph speed limits helps reduce the risk of life-changing injuries or fatalities, as well as cutting congestion and pollution levels, and discouraging dangerous rat-running in quieter streets. I am delighted we are fulfilling our election manifesto and proceeding with this long-needed improvement which will make our streets safer and more pleasant places to live.



Transport and Environment Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Stuart King June 2016

Final plans for the phase one speed limits in parts of South Norwood, Selhurst, Bensham Manor, Thornton Heath and Upper Norwood are now underway, and the first new signs are due to be installed this month.

Big Lunches

Croydon residents once again showed their community spirit by putting on Big Lunches and Street parties on Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th June 2016. Every year the Big Lunch sees communities from all corners of the borough sitting down to eat and chat with their neighbours. Approximately 64 Big Lunches were registered with the council this year, which is a fabulous testament to our communities.

Pearl Izumi tour series

The penultimate round of the **Pearl Izumi Tour Series** was on a new course for this year's event, as some of Britain's leading cyclists hurtled around some of the town's best known landmarks. Thunder and lightning added to the excitement of the school-cycling races as hundreds of people lined the streets of Croydon for a night of professional road-racing on Tuesday 7 June.

It was great to see **Wheels for Wellbeing** defy the wet conditions to provide an opportunity for disabled cyclists to ride and race on the course's start/finish straight.

The rain also didn't prevent a host of local riders from raising funds for **Croydon Commitment** with a special relay race which was won by Metropolitan Police ahead of the London Underground Cycling Club and Old Portlians Cycling Club.

Luckily for the professionals and the crowds the weather improved during the day. After a thrilling men's race in which the lead changed several times, **Jon Mould** claimed a sixth race victory of the Pearl Izumi Tour Series.

St James's Road/Windmill Bridge - Cycle fatality

Following the tragic death of Magda Tadj, a cyclist who was killed at St James's Road/Windmill Bridge on 23 May, I met on site with the ward councillors for Selhurst and Addiscombe, representatives of Croydon Cyclists and road safety officials from the council. As the Coroner's inquest has not yet taken place, there is a limit to some of the actions we can take. However, following the site visit I have instructed our highway inspectors/maintenance team to provide a refresh of the faded carriageway markings, yellow box markings etc., throughout this road corridor. In addition, I have asked our structures team to carry out a review of the heavy goods vehicle limit signage on the



Transport and Environment Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Stuart King June 2016

approaches to the railway bridge with the aim of improving their visibility. Further actions are under active consideration.

Emergency road closure in Imperial Way

The congregation of people to watch and participate in speeding cars and motorbikes – known as a “cruise” has happened on and off for some time at this location. In the last couple of months this has escalated in volume and we recently had two very serious accidents, the victim of one of which is still in a coma as a result.

The council has been working with our colleagues in the police to seek a solution. A number of preventative options are being explored: speed humps, chicanes, road closures and other permanent measures are under consideration, but the proper assessment required means it will likely take a number of months to secure approval.

As a cruise was imminent, the council agreed to use an emergency power to close the road. In effect, this means that the police can set up a road block and restrict vehicles using the road. People who want to legitimately access Imperial Way, such as shopper, are able to do so. Local businesses want to see action taken and have been supportive of the approach. The impact of the closure has thus far been effective in disrupting the efforts to organise cruises in Imperial Way.

Working with councilors and residents groups

I have been liaising with councillors and residents associations in a number of wards on road safety, parking and other highways matters, including Bensham Manor, Coulsdon East, Purley, Selhurst, South Norwood, Waddon & Woodside.



Economy and Jobs Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Mark Watson June 2016

Latest News

Purley BID

Purley BID was established on 1st February 2016 for a five year term after a successful ballot in autumn 2015. This is the third Business Improvement District to be established in the Borough (Croydon Town Centre being one of the largest in the UK and New Addington being one of the smallest).

The Purley BID Board's business plan to support the area includes key themes of Business Engagement, Accessibility & Parking, Image & Marketing, Clean & Green, and Safer Streets.

Since they were established the board have collected 80% of the levy monies owed for year one of the BID. They have run several events including, networking, an Easter egg hunt and an ambitious 'Food and Drink Week' which took place during the first week of June and which included a food festival and a beer festival.

In addition, they have commissioned and are running 7 Audits on areas for improvement to ensure the most cost effective delivery over the next 5 years and which are providing useful information from which to define their 5 year work programme. The Audits are:

- Clean
- Green infrastructure
- Safer street
- Business engagement
- Wayfinding
- Cultural
- Marketing

ATCM Summer School

The Association for Town and City Management (ATCM) is a membership body representing professionals involved with town and city centres as well as Business Improvement Districts (BIDs). Each year they hold a Summer School open for both members and non-members.

This year they are celebrating their 25th Anniversary and will be holding their two day summer school at Croydon College on **Thursday 30 June and Friday 1 July 2016**. We are proud to host these delegates in the Borough and as such, I will be welcoming delegates and the ATCM to the Borough personally at the event.



Economy and Jobs Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Mark Watson June 2016

The conference will mostly take place at Croydon College but will also involve some tours and site visits. Including to Purley BID and Croydon Town Centre BID. On the Thursday evening there will be a dinner reception held at the Fairfield Halls for delegates.

Working Together

Croydon Works – Croydon’s Transformation

Following the announcement in March that we will be setting up a Job Brokerage service, the service will be officially launched in July. Croydon Works is a partnership between Croydon Council, Jobcentre Plus and Croydon College, and a wide range of other local organisations.

Croydon Works will provide a free service for the borough’s employers, large and small, to find skilled and motivated local candidates for their vacancies, and provides a support network for residents to enable them to gain the right skills and experience to secure good quality, sustainable jobs.

The partnership has been testing the brokerage model, working with a number of Value Croydon employers, and following the official launch will scale up to provide a comprehensive service.

The brokerage will ensure that residents gain maximum benefit from forthcoming developments and opportunities in the borough, including the opening of Boxpark later this year. A dedicated Boxpark recruitment event will be held for anyone interested in gaining a job with one of the Boxpark businesses, and bespoke training will be provided for any residents in need of new skills or a boost to their CV before they apply for a role.

Delivering our Ambitions

Officers of the Council are mobilising to deliver the streetscape/ public realm proposals, which form part of the £2.7m GLA New Homes Bonus Fund. The focus of these works is to enable improvements to key gateways into Thornton Heath . These have been identified in dialogue with local stakeholders and ward members as outside of the Railway Station, Parchmore Road Junction Whitehorse Lane Roundabout and the library forecourt. Concept designs have been finalised taking

AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON



Economy and Jobs Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Mark Watson June 2016

on board comments from the community events held earlier this year and detailed design is now progressing.

As part of the project, five pieces of public art displayed on flank walls of buildings will be introduced along the High Street. Workshops involving the community have been undertaken by the artists to come up with ideas and proposals that relate to Thornton Heath.

A Shop Front Improvements programme for 30 shops has progressed well and is now concluding the concept designs and finalising the proposals with the relevant shop owners with planning applications to be submitted over the coming months.

Additionally a key business support component has been out to tender and officers are in the process of appointing the preferred supplier. Following award a pre-contract meeting will be held prior to project inception. This project will primarily use the funding available to focus on those businesses who have poor hygiene ratings and who are negatively impacting on the quality of the environment and food offer. We will be looking at eligibility in more detail but they must be prepared to commit to obtaining a level 3 rating as a minimum, and have some track record in responding positively to enforcements. There are 80 local businesses to be engaged with 60 SME businesses to be supported and 3 vacant premises supported back into use. The shop front improvement programme is linked to their taking up of the support.

Regular bi-monthly meetings take place with both local ward members and wider stakeholder group to act as a sounding board for proposals and to ensure alignment with the project brief. This forms part of a wider communication plan and outline programme for the Thornton Heath New Homes Bonus programme as elements of the programme to come forward, how they are linked, and how they contribute to meeting the Thornton Heath Business Priorities.

Surrey Street Market

The council is putting together a scheme to improve Surrey Street Market.

A consultation event was held on 2nd March with market traders, businesses, stakeholders and residents to form a list of priorities to feed into the design brief. Comments were collated and a shortlist of priorities have been defined as:



Economy and Jobs Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Mark Watson June 2016

- Robust, flexible public realm to accommodate different market layouts and events
- Improved quality public realm to create an environment where people visit the market to spend time
- Lighting – functional lighting and bespoke art/architectural lighting installations.
- Public art and bespoke way-finding at the market and the wider area
- Market stalls – review of options to provide new improved market stalls

Depending on the available budget, other items such as building frontage improvements and improvements to Exchange Square may also be considered.

Early stage design work has been completed on the carriageway and an architect is in the process of being appointed to take forward other elements of detailed design over the coming weeks.



Families, Health and Social Care

Cabinet Member Bulletin

Councillor Louisa Woodley

June / July 2016

LATEST NEWS

STOP PRESS.....

Award Nomination

People's Gateway Enablement and Welfare Service, Phase 1, is one of six to have been shortlisted for the London Homelessness Awards 2016. Judging takes place Wednesday 20 July. Of the six shortlisted projects, three will be awarded either 1st, 2nd, or 3rd prizes (£30k, £15k, or £10k respectively) and the remaining three will receive a judges' commendation.

Homefinder UK

Croydon Council participates in the first National Mobility Scheme ever launched in the UK called Homefinder UK. Homefinder UK is an online service that social tenants, households in temporary accommodation and homeless applicants can register on www.homefinderuk.org and bid on immediately available social housing within London or across the UK. This video is a story of a family placed in temporary accommodation by Croydon Council. This family decided that they wanted to move to Scotland in a new social housing property for a fresh start. Homefinder UK helped them find a suitable property and in collaboration with Croydon Council this family got help through the whole process. Now they live in Scotland in a two bed renovated house with a garden!

Link to Video – (copy and paste into your browser) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yRKl5yEvn_w&feature=youtu.be

Transformation of Adult Social Care

The Transformation of Adult Social Care (TRASC) Programme is about changing the way we support our most vulnerable residents – 'a life not a care plan'. Fairness, independence and people exercising choice and control are at the heart of adult social care and the newly formed All-Age Disability Service. We aim to promote health and wellbeing through universal support – connecting people to their communities, with a focus on supporting recovery, living independently and enhancing resilience. These are the main principles that the TRASC Programme is looking to deliver.

The intended benefits of the TRASC Programme are:

- People will have better access to advice, information and targeted prevention that will help them to live their lives without support from the Council. We are developing an information, advice and advocacy framework over the next few

months with engagement events to support this process being held in June/July 2016.

- People will be supported through Reablement to be as independent as possible - following a review of existing services we are now working to expand the service to also focus on people living in the community to improve their independence and reduce admissions to hospital.
- People will have more choice and control, leading to higher satisfaction levels. We introduced a new prepaid card in April 2106 for existing and new recipients of direct payments. The card credited with the service user's direct payment so they can use it to purchase the required goods and services as set out in their support plan. The card makes it easier for the holder to manage their money and reduces the burden on them to provide paper based monitoring of their use of their budget making a direct payment option more attractive.
- More people will be supported to live independently. We are developing an asset based approach to how we work with people during initial contact, assessment and review stages to seek to connect people with communities, maintain their own support networks, support carers and build individual resilience as much as possible to increase independence.
- More emphasis will be placed on prevention by offering information, advice and early interventions that are responsive to people's needs. People will be encouraged to use their social networks, community resources and third sector organisations to meet their desired outcomes.
- The focus of safeguarding interventions will continue to build on The Care Act principles and making safeguarding personal to promote people's independence, choice and control.

Contact Officer: Pratima Solanki, Director of Adult Social Care and All Age Disability

Council salvages 137 properties in empty homes drive

A council drive to turn derelict properties into homes for Croydon families has passed the 100 mark in one year.

In 2015 the council launched its empty homes campaign to identify, refurbish and rent out homes that had lain empty for more than one year.

The aim is to boost the rented sector in Croydon, help cut the number of families living in bed and breakfast accommodation and reduce the blight of empty homes on the borough's local environment.

Since then, the empty property service has got landlords to do up and re-let 108 flats and 29 houses to families needing temporary accommodation in the borough. The latest properties to be reoccupied this month are 16 homes in South Croydon that had been empty until the council and social landlord Monarch Partnership stepped in to revamp and re-let them.

The previously-derelict two-bedroom 1930s maisonettes in Haling Grove are now let by Monarch to the council so it can provide medium-term accommodation to families on the housing waiting list.

The 137 properties brought back into use so far under the empty homes programme range from a four-bedroom detached home in Purley that the council bought through a compulsory purchase order in March last year to sites in Waddon, Thornton Heath, Coulsdon and New Addington. The empty homes drive is part-funded by the Greater London Authority, which provides grants to councils that actively look to restore empty homes.

The council is encouraging residents to report empty properties via the My Croydon app, which is quick and free to download from the Google Play store for Android smartphones or Apple iTunes store for iPhones. You can also report empty homes online at www.croydon.gov.uk or on the dedicated hotline: 020 8760 5470.



After

Contact
Corinne Masters,
Head of Housing
Renewal, People
Department.



Croydon Heart Town School Song Competition



I previously mentioned the council's Croydon Heart Town school song competition which invited pupils to compose a song about what we can all do to keep our hearts healthy. I am pleased to let you know that the winning song was composed by Megan Henderson, of Atwood Primary School, in Limpsfield Road. Megan's lyrics about the benefits of swimming for exercise have now been arranged to an upbeat soundtrack. The pupils of Class 3D of Fairchildes Primary School, in New Addington, won the jingle category with the 'Healthy Eating Rap'.

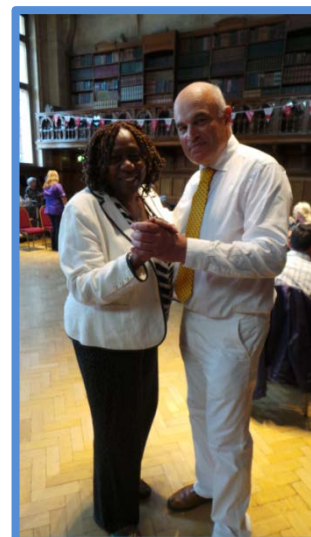
Croydon Radio played Megan's winning song on [Ally McKinlay's show](#), and you can listen to both the song and jingle [here](#).

We are also sending Megan's song to the [Health Commission for Swimming](#), a national group set up to investigate the links between swimming and health, and to demonstrate just how good swimming is for you.

The Hub Tea Dance – Summer 2016

On Friday 10 June, the Healthy Living Hub in conjunction with the council's Croydon Heart Town initiative with the British Heart Foundation, hosted the first 'Hub Tea Dance' in the Braithwaite Hall of the Croydon Clocktower building. Invites were sent around the borough's care homes, to Age UK and Mind's ballroom dance class, amongst others, and the event promoted widely to the public. Over 50 people attended with wonderful feedback about the "stunning venue" and the delight at an event aimed at the elder population of Croydon.

Dance is a wonderful way for us to keep active especially if we don't have a fondness for traditional forms of physical activity such as sport. Croydon Heart Town has run dance workshops as part of the Ambition festival in 2015 and supported the 'Big Dance Bus' that arrived at the recent Addiscombe Festival at Ashburton Park. Plans are already underway with the next 'Hub Tea Dance' planned for the end of September. Almost all of the attendees left their contact details so they could be invited to the next event. A thoroughly good time was had by all. Further information can be found at;<https://www.croydon.gov.uk/healthsocial/phealth/hearttown/htevents>



WORKING WITH PARTNERS

Local volunteers praised for help during National HIV Testing Week

During [National HIV Testing Week](#) last year, the council's public health team worked with local volunteers to distribute information around Croydon encouraging residents and people out and about in the area to check their HIV status and get tested. This included asking them to take a test at the mobile clinic which toured the borough for 2 weeks.

The local volunteers came from Rainbows Across Borders (RAB), Africans Getting Involved (AGI), Social and Health Care students from Croydon College, Croydon Care Solutions, GUM staff from Croydon University Hospital, Turning Point, plus an outside agency, West London Gay Men's Project (now renamed Spectra).

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I also had the opportunity to join Croydon Care Solutions on the council's Information and Well-being bus (mobile clinic), when it stopped at North End shopping centre. HIV Testing Week in Croydon was successful in many aspects and around 300 people were tested at the mobile clinic during that time.

We wanted to formally acknowledge the volunteers' input and many of them were awarded with Certificates of Achievement this month at a presentation event at Croydon College. A few of the volunteers spoke about their experiences and we were pleased to hear the positive accounts of their time as volunteers. In the future, we will be encouraging even more students and local organisations to work with us on similar projects.

