



Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Tony Newman April 2017

Latest news

Croydon has come together as a community to take a stand against hate crime. Last month **Rekar Ahmed**, a Kurdish-Iranian teenage asylum seeker, was beaten and badly hurt in Croydon when he was set upon by a large group of cowardly thugs.

Our thoughts remain with Rekar and his friends who were also affected. Croydon is proud of its diverse community and vile and cowardly attacks of this nature are extremely rare.

I've sent Rekar a personal message of support on behalf of the residents of Croydon to wish him a speedy recovery. Since the attack I've spoken to a large number of residents and businesses who are united in their rejection of hate crime.

On 11 April we held a community event at the CVA resource centre with fellow councillors, community and faith leaders, including representatives from our Kurdish community to stand together to send out the clearest possible message that hate will never be allowed to divide us.

At the event we were joined by Sophie Linden, City Hall's Deputy Mayor for Policing, to offer her support and to read a message from the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, who said "to see how the people of Croydon have responded – coming together to reject this kind of hatred, to support Rekar and to get the message out loud and clear that we want to support asylum seekers and refugees – should give us all hope."

Croydon was also visited in the last few days by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Sajid Javid MP who wanted to find out more about the borough's work to support young asylum seekers and refugees.



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I talked to him about the borough's close working relationship with the Home Office, whose immigration screening centre on Wellesley Road is where all asylum applications are first processed. As a gateway borough, Croydon has taken in and provided care for thousands of unaccompanied young asylum seekers and refugees. At any one time the council typically has between 400 and 450 unaccompanied asylum seeking children in its care, most of whom are placed with foster parents.

Thank you for your support and compassion, and together as a community we'll stand up against hate crime.

It's been a busy few months as we continue to deliver **ambitious plans for Croydon**.

We're working hard to deliver you cleaner streets, a new swimming pool in New Addington, a new Fairfield Halls, more culture and fun in the borough and the many improvements across the priorities that matter to you.

I've been lucky enough to visit the Fairfield Halls site and see behind the hoardings. There is a tremendous amount of work going on and the refurbishment is moving at pace. The Fairfield Halls is going to be a destination venue to be proud of.

We've also started working on improving air quality in the borough. The air we breathe has such a huge impact on our health and wellbeing, and areas of London are increasingly choked. We're working to make Croydon the cleanest borough in London and I'll keep updating you.

There is a lot more for us to do and we continue to be ambitious for the years ahead to build on these solid foundations for a better Croydon.

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Thank you everyone who has taken part in the '**Good evening Croydon**' **competition**. You still have until 7 May to enter if you are a Croydon based organisation with an idea that will improve Croydon's nightlife.

Your creative thinking could help to energise, rejuvenate and unleash undiscovered potential in Croydon as part of the ongoing regeneration in the borough. This could be anything from events to lighting, facilities to marketing - anything with culture at its heart that could be delivered within the next two years. We're keen to invest in and support the best ideas to make them happen. Go to the Croydon website to find out more.

I'm delighted that Croydon is to stage its first cycling festival, as the **Tour Series** men's and **Matrix Fitness** women's professional racing returns to the town centre on 18 May.

The **Croydon Cycle Fest** will kick off with children's and charity races taking place on the street circuit in central Croydon from noon. In addition there will be opportunities to experience demonstrations of cargo, electric and other bicycles.

The town's going to take on a party atmosphere for this great festival. It's guaranteed to be a fantastic day out, regardless of whether you're a cycle racing enthusiast or not. It's nationally viewed events like this that help raise Croydon's profile and encourage even more investment into the borough.

Croydon health services are underfunded and have been so for many years. You may have seen the announcement from the local CCG about their decision to stop the withdrawal of funding for IVF treatment in the borough.

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NHS England figures show that 1 in 7 may have trouble conceiving. The impact of a decision to remove access to IVF will mean that those in the most deprived, low-income areas will be unable to afford to pay for private treatment and will probably never know if they could have had children.

With the average cost for one treatment being almost £9,000, and an annual cost of more than £880,000 for providing IVF at Croydon University Hospital, the CCG sees the withdrawal of funding as necessary as it strives to find savings of £36m this year. It says that if the service remains in place, savings will have to be found elsewhere.

As an administration we are making it clear, along with health partners, that we need fair funding for Croydon and to put an end to the huge underfunding.

I'm proud that Croydon won a prestigious **local government awards** and was nominated for four others.

We won the Digital Council of the Year award for our digital services and systems which improve the customer experience. We also won because of our work in partnering with 'Go-on UK', which is a partnership programme that gives residents the opportunity to get digital skills.

These awards are the Oscars of local government and to be shortlisted for so many is fantastic. I'm really proud of our digital work and I hope as many residents as possible can benefit.

Councillor Tony Newman
Leader of the Council

AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON

Clr Alison Butler - Homes and Regeneration

April 2017

Latest News – Regeneration

National Urban Design Award 2017 Winners

Croydon Council has been announced winners of the Public Sector category awards at the National Urban Design Awards 2017.

The award was given for the Council's work devising and delivering the Connected Croydon programme of public realm and transport infrastructure improvements in central Croydon over the past few years.

The programme, which saw a series of public realm projects and transport improvements carried out to transform public spaces in Croydon, beat entries submitted by councils from around the country to the top spot at the awards ceremony.

As part of Connected Croydon, the East Croydon Bridge and pedestrian link was installed connecting the station to Lansdowne Road and improvements were also made to the public realm around London Road, Old Town and South End, creating new and improved spaces.

The project also saw the delivery of the Wellesley Road crossing, improvements made to the roundabout at the junction of Lansdowne Road and Dingwall Road, as well as improved efficiency and attractiveness of Croydon's two major public transport interchanges at East and West Croydon.

Croydon i-street competition

Croydon Council has joined forces with the Architects Journal to launch a new competition to design an interactive, streetscape of the future.

The free to enter contest seeks technology-led concepts to promote physical interaction with the street, enhance the public realm, aid movement and navigation as well as providing information about what is happening in Croydon now and tomorrow.

Solutions should be useful, replicable, flexible and beautiful.

The AJ will run this competition promoting it to its subscribers and through associated trade publications. If Croydon Council finds a workable, cost-effective and successful solution it is committed to rolling out the scheme across the town centre as part of its Growth Zone programme.

Teams may wish to consider collaborating with a range of disciplines including: architects, graphic designers, lighting experts, wayfinding experts, technology and software companies, urban planners, product manufacturers, street furniture designers, acousticians, accessibility experts and artists.

CLr Alison Butler - Homes and Regeneration

April 2017

Timescales

Event	Date
Entries deadline	19th May 2017
Croydon Council / AJ shortlisting	w/c 29th May 2017
JUDGING PANEL	w/c 26th June 2017
Winner announced	6th July 2017

Brick by Brick

The housing challenge continues to be a priority for the Council and positive steps have been taken to realise our ambition to secure more affordable homes for those most at need in the borough. One such action was to establish the independent development company, Brick by Brick, to create a step change for how Council owned land can be maximised for housing.

In under a year of being set up, Brick by Brick has worked at pace to prepare and submit 30 applications for planning permission, aiming to develop mixed tenure homes across various sites in the borough. In total, the schemes in planning provide for over 500 homes, 50% of which will be affordable, which is a significant contribution to the housing challenge. Importantly, these homes will be specifically targeted at local residents to buy and rent from 2018 onwards, which continues our commitment to tackle the pressures around temporary accommodation.

The mix of homes also creates opportunities for residents who want to stay in the area and own their first newbuild home, or the others wishing to downsize to homes that are better suited to their needs. Creating new homes also has the added benefit of improving our streets and communities and contributes to maintain Croydon's thriving local high streets and businesses.

As sole shareholder of Brick by Brick, the Council keeps the full development value - from lending to the company, to development profit, to the rents it will secure from the affordable homes. This investment is more than just bricks and mortar; the developments are building a future for existing communities and new generations to come.

Fairfield Halls

Work at the Fairfield Halls is progressing on two fronts, enabling works and procurement of contractors for the main refurbishment works.

The enabling works within the Halls comprising of asbestos removal, heritage soft strip and MEP removal and protection are progressing well in preparation of providing a ready building for the main refurbishment works to commence in May 2017.

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Comprehensive surveys have been carried out across the site to provide necessary information to the Design Team to allow the design to be progressed and in preparation for the main refurbishment works.

Tender documents for the appointment of a main contractor to undertake the refurbishment works were issued to potential contractors in March 2017, with mid tender interviews programmed for end of March and tender returns due in April. The main contractor is due to be appointed and commence on site in May 2017.

Croydon apprenticeships celebrated at council event



Apprentices working across the council were celebrated at a special event held in recognition of National Apprenticeship Week.

Keen to ensure learning-on-the-job opportunities are made available to local job seekers, Croydon not only offer apprenticeships within the council itself, but has ensured its contractor partners also reap the benefits of taking on young learners.

The event held earlier this week, commended the value and contribution of apprentices working for the council's housing and schools maintenance contractors, Clairglow, Axis and Mulalley; who have brought employment opportunities to the borough and have been working with the council and Croydon Works – the council's job brokerage service – to make the apprenticeship scheme a success.

At present there are 27 apprentices, working on repairs and homes and schools improvements contracts after both companies committed to offering one apprenticeship for every £1m of council contracts.

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Mulalley apprentice Kaval Burke, began looking for an apprenticeship after deciding on a career within the construction industry and taking an eight day intensive course at Croydon College.

The 17-year-old from New Addington, said: “After I found out about the Mulalley apprenticeship scheme I had an interview, followed by a week’s work experience and I was overwhelmed when Mulalley offered me the job. I am learning to box in pipes and am enjoying doing that. Once I have finished my apprenticeship I would like to become a carpenter.”

Saphron Baker-Shanahan began looking for an apprenticeship after finishing a BTEC in Science. Keen to pursue a hands-on career where she could learn new skills, she started as a plumbing apprentice at Axis last September.

She said: “Before I started I was really nervous because it was a big change from what I was doing before at college. It turned out I didn’t need to be nervous as everyone made an effort to make sure that I felt like a part of the team. It’s great because I am learning and working at the same time – I definitely feel like I’m learning a lot.”

“This event is a fantastic way of not only celebrating the council’s commitment to current and future apprentices in Croydon, but also to highlight the value apprentices bring to an organisation.

“Apprenticeships are a fantastic way of growing a pool of talent for the future, and give people in our community the chance to earn while they learn and develop their knowledge, skills and experience in the world of work.”

Latest News - Homes

Croydon welcomes shadow secretary of state for housing



Clr Alison Butler - Homes and Regeneration

April 2017

The shadow secretary of state for housing visited Croydon earlier this month, to hear about the borough's affordable housing and regeneration plans.

John Healey MP, met with myself and the Managing Director/CEO of the council's house building company Brick by Brick, Colm Lacey, and was shown key development sites in the town centre.

The walking tour included visits to Ruskin Square, Boxpark Croydon, Fairfield Halls and College Green, where the plans for the borough's new cultural quarter, including the delivery of 218 new homes, were discussed.

Time was also taken to talk over residential developer HUB's proposed redevelopment plans for the former Taberner House site and The Queen's Gardens, which if planning approval is given, will bring 514 new homes, of which at least 30% will be affordable housing, to the heart of the town centre.

Speaking after his visit, Mr Healey said: "I'm impressed with the fantastic energy of Croydon, it's very striking and hits you as soon as you come out of East Croydon Station. A lot of people across the country are talking about Croydon because it's a can do place. The council has made it a living wage borough, made affordable housing a priority and is making the refurbishment of Fairfield Halls happen.

"The innovation of Brick by Brick also stands out to me, even against housing companies other councils in the country have set up. There is no fat profit margin and the mixture of homes they can build to include affordable and social housing, better meet the needs of Croydon residents."

Croydon welcomes Crisis to town

Crisis, the national charity for homeless people, has been welcomed to Croydon by the local council at the formal opening of a modern new centre in the heart of town.

Crisis Skylight Croydon, the eleventh of its kind across Great Britain, has been established to provide vital services to help people find permanent homes.

Its staff will help people through every stage of their journey out of homelessness, from early engagement on the street, to progression into education, employment and independent living.

The council has been working with Crisis for the last three years to find a suitable location for the centre and ensure the charity has solid links in place with other homelessness support agencies in the area.

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The charity began working in Croydon in the autumn of 2015, delivering classes and advice sessions in drop-in centres for people living on the streets, as well as in hostels and supported housing projects. The move to a permanent home makes it easier for homeless people to get the help they need from Crisis.

The centre is equipped with facilities ranging from an IT suite, training kitchen and art room, to showers and a laundry.

Crisis Chief Executive Jon Sparkes said: "I'm delighted that Crisis Skylight Croydon has found a permanent home. It will allow our team to build on the excellent work we've been doing here since 2015.

"We're confident the facilities and the team here at Crisis Skylight Croydon will help remove the barriers many rough sleepers face, building confidence and moving people forward and out of homelessness for good."

Michael Hewlett RIP

One of Croydon's leading tenant representatives, with more than 20 years' service passed away on Friday 10 February.

Michael Hewlett, of Longheath Gardens, Ashburton, became involved in tenant affairs in 1994 when he responded to a council call for people living in its properties to become more involved in the management of their homes and estates by registering their interest in joining their local customer panel.

This was a new initiative enabling tenants to meet regularly with those who delivered housing services, and local councillors. Within a short time Mr Hewlett became the panel's chair.

His desire to improve services for tenants across the borough saw him give up his spare time to work with a number of tenant groups including the main tenant and leaseholder panel, which he also chaired for long periods during the past 10 years.

Over the years, he played a central role in working to develop a range of opportunities for others to get involved. Croydon's innovative approaches to resident involvement have won national recognition over the years and Mr Hewlett supported officers on numerous occasions in sharing Croydon's good practice to officers and tenants across the country, including speaking at the Institute of Housing Conference in Harrogate in 2010.

More recently, he was involved in developing Croydon's commended approach to tenant scrutiny and gave many hours of his time ensuring that tenants had their say in the appointment of new council contracts for the responsive repairs service and planned maintenance. He was also a member of housing's All Ages Group as he was keen to ensure that there was excellent provision of activities for young people on housing estates.

CLr Alison Butler - Homes and Regeneration

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A member of the London Tenants' Federation Committee, he also sat on the Association of Retained Council Housing (Arch) residents' board where he ensured that the views of Croydon's tenants were heard.

Mr Hewlett always found time for his local community. He was part of a local church committee that planned and developed the Longheath Community Centre, and he subsequently played an active role in the running of the centre, including the organisation of a weekly meal club for the estate's older residents.

Michael Hewlett passed away, following a short illness, on 10 February, aged 81, at the Princess Royal Hospital, Orpington, with family members at his side.

"This is terribly sad news, both for the many friends he made among council officers, and, more importantly, for tenants across the borough and further afield.

"He was a positive, happy man who had a great sense of humour and was always smiling, which helped him form good relationships with officers and fellow residents' representatives.

"He'll be greatly missed by officers, councillors, fellow tenant representatives and his local community."

Councillor Maddie Henson, Ashburton ward councillor, said: "I worked closely with Michael on a number of issues and he never gave less than his best.

"When services failed to meet the required standards, he would ensure that the officers knew and he'd expect them to remedy any problems, quickly.

"I'll certainly miss working with him, and my thoughts are with his family and many friends."

Michael's funeral was held on Wednesday 1st March 2017 at Beckenham Crematorium.



Children, Young People and Learning Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Alisa Flemming April 2017

LATEST NEWS

Launch of the Vision for Children's Services in Croydon

A new vision for Children's Services in Croydon was launched in March by myself, Councillor Shafi Khan and Barbara Peacock. The vision focusses on ensuring the best outcomes for Children and Young People and is a really exciting piece of work.

Children and young people in Croydon will be safe, healthy, and happy and will aspire to be the best they can be. The future is theirs.

Contact Officer: ian.lewis@croydon.gov.uk

Croydon's latest new school is officially opened

Croydon's newest secondary school, **Oasis Academy Arena**, situated next door to Croydon Arena Athletics Track, has formally opened.

The school is a London 2012 Olympic legacy project and puts a strong focus on sports.

The launch event was attended by many of those who had been involved in the project from the outset and marked the latest in a series of new schools built by Croydon Council over the last few years. The council has created the largest school building programme in the UK as a means of ensuring every child has a place.

Other schools recently completed have included Chestnut Park Primary, Harris Primary Purley Way, and Beckmead Special School, and many others have also seen permanent expansions as part of the council's multi-million pound investment.

Over the last few years our focus has been on building and expanding our primary school provision to meet the demand from a rapidly growing population. We've successfully achieved that and ensured every child has a place. Soon, however, as these children grow up, we will need more secondary places. This new school is one of the first projects that will enable us to make that happen, and I'm delighted to see it formally opened.





Children, Young People and Learning Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Alisa Flemming April 2017

Trip to the Palace of Westminster

In March a group of ALDD students from CALAT took a trip to the very heart of British politics when they visited the Palace of Westminster.

The students are all enrolled on an Employability skills course and as part of the Rights and Responsibilities unit they are learning about our right to vote and how and where our laws are made



Arranged with the help of MP for Croydon North, Steve Reed, the lucky students were given a personal guided tour of the Palace and were left awestruck at the scope and scale of both the House of Commons and House of Lords. Two of them were even given the rare privilege of sitting in the very seats used by elected politicians.



Speaking about their trip Noelle said 'There was so much history in the building and the rooms were beautifully decorated'. Whilst Sarah clearly knows how any visit to London should end, 'I enjoyed hearing the history of the building and I bought a souvenir chocolate bar with the House of Lords on the wrapper'.

CALAT ALDD courses are a great way for those with learning difficulties or disabilities to develop a wide range of skills, make friends and have fun whilst moving towards employment and independence. For more information go to www.calat.ac.uk

ALDD: Adults with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities
CALAT: Croydon Adult Learning And Training

Reception and Junior Admissions - September 2017

Tuesday 18 April 2017 was the national offer day for those starting school for the first time and those moving from an infant to a junior school.

Almost all our parents/carers have applied online for a place and they will receive an email letting them know which school their child has been offered. Information about how to accept the place, and the waiting list and appeals processes will be available at www.croydon.gov.uk/admissions

Contact Officer: Jenny.wade@croydon.gov.uk

AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON



Children, Young People and Learning Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Alisa Flemming April 2017

Recent school inspections

As a result of recent inspections nearly half of Croydon's pupils attend an outstanding secondary school and 85% of these schools are now judged by Ofsted as good or better.

There have been some individual successes for our high schools, in particular, as a result of strong leadership St Mary's High (Croydon's secondary school of the year) have been recently judged by Ofsted to be a 'good' school after two previous requiring improvement judgements.

In recent Primary inspections a number of our schools have been successful in retaining their previously 'good' Ofsted judgements. These schools include Howard, Elmwood Junior and Whitehorse Manor Junior.

We continue to work in close partnership with all of our schools on their journey to achieving a 'good' Ofsted judgement. We ensure that the action taken by schools leads to rapid and robust improvements. Additional support is given to those schools that are due an inspection to ensure that they are fully prepared.

Congratulations to those schools that have secured improved outcomes for our pupils and have been successful in securing positive Ofsted outcomes. Good luck to those schools that await the call.

Contact Officer: shelley.davies@croydon.gov.uk

90% of applicants to Croydon secondary schools get one of top three choices



Croydon has maintained its record of ensuring the majority of pupils moving up from primary level get their first preference choice of secondary school. The borough's school place offer figures are on par with London averages, with almost 70% of pupils getting their preferred school. And nearly 90% received an offer at a school that was one

of their top three named preferences.

This is largely thanks to the council having the largest school building and expansion programme in the UK. As a result, every child in Croydon whose parents applied on time received an offer of a place.

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The building programme is needed because of the rapidly expanding school age population in Croydon, and five more new primary and secondary schools are planned for the next few years, providing an extra 6,000 places by 2020.

Not only are we making sure that all of our children have a place, but the council is also driving up standards to improve exam results. Some 83% of secondary schools and academies in Croydon are now rated by Ofsted as good or better – and half of these are ranked as outstanding.

The application process has been simplified over the last few years, and 100% of applications are now received online.

The council continues to stress how important it is that parents use all six preference options or run the risk of being allocated a school they haven't selected as a choice.

Contact Officer: jenny.wade@croydon.gov.uk

Accessibility Strategy

In January, Cabinet agreed that consultation could begin on our proposed Accessibility Strategy. The consultation is live now and will end on 28 April and we look forward to responses from a wide range of stakeholders. The final Strategy will be agreed by delegation at the end of May.

Further information can be found at www.croydon.gov.uk/accessibilitystrategyconsultation

Contact Officer: jenny.wade@croydon.gov.uk

Proposed School Expansion Consultation

In January, Cabinet agreed that consultation could begin on the proposed expansion of St Nicholas School and Beckmead.

The consultation period finished on 29 March and the final decision whether or not to expand these schools will be made at Cabinet on 2 May.

Further information can be found at:

www.croydon.gov.uk/beckmeadexpansion2017

www.croydon.gov.uk/stnicholasexpansion2018

Contact Officer: jenny.wade@croydon.gov.uk

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WORKING WITH PARTNERS

LGC Awards – Children’s Services

A Partnership approach to tackling Domestic and Sexual Violence in Croydon from Croydon Council was shortlisted in the Children’s Services category. The Director of Early Help and Children’s Social Care and some of the DASV team joined me at the LGC Awards Ceremony at Grosvenor House Hotel on 8th March. The team didn’t win, but it was testament to the dedicated work of the team that they were shortlisted. A big thank you for all the hard work from the team.

Contact Officer: ian.lewis@croydon.gov.uk



Families, Health and Social Care Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Louisa Woodley APRIL 2017

LATEST NEWS

Croydon Council is on a mission to increase understanding of what it means to be autistic and bust some of the most common myths surrounding the condition.

To mark the start of World Autism Awareness Week 2017 (WAAW), the Mayor of Croydon, Councillor Wayne Trakas-Lawlor, was joined by borough autism champion Councillor Andrew Rendle; the leader of the council, Councillor Tony Newman; and myself as he raised the WAAW flag over the Town Hall.



Around 1 in 100 people in the UK are autistic – although many believe that number is much higher, with a larger than average number of autistic people living in Croydon. For WAAW 2017, Croydon Council is encouraging everyone who lives or works in Croydon to participate in a free e-learning course to understand how autism affects people. Developed with help from Croydon's adult autism service and people on the spectrum, the course challenges some of the most common misconceptions and aims to help people understand what it really means to live with autism.

MBE for founder of Good Food Matters



The chief executive and founder of the Good Food Matters charity recently had a very special day in London. Evelyn Findlater enjoyed a trip to Buckingham Palace where she was made an MBE for services to education.

The honour marks 10 years of dedication and perseverance in establishing the Community Food Learning Centre in New Addington.

Evelyn has been, and continues to be, an inspiration to all who know and work with her. To receive this honour is a fitting reward for the hard work and dedication she's

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applied to getting the Community Food Learning Centre off the ground and becoming such an integral part of Croydon's Food Flagship programme.

Healthy Goodies in Pop-up Food Zone

Kate Moss's brother, Nick Moss has joined Croydon's pop-up healthy food zone serving his Vietnamese cuisine to local people from his Vietvan business.



The healthy food zone was set up in January by the council's Food Flagship programme and it is run by local entrepreneurs who received business training from the Flagship.

Others businesses trading at the food zone are Joe+Santini Coffee, Brown Shuga Dumplin, Chilli Station and Eat Me Baking.

The food zone now operates during daytime hours every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from the square opposite the main entrance to Croydon College.

You can read more on our website <http://news.croydon.gov.uk/supermodels-brother-brings-vietnamese-spice-healthy-food-zone/>

NEW Government website showcases work of Croydon's Food Flagship

The work that we are doing with Croydon schools, residents and businesses as part of the Food Flagship programme has been included on a [new government website](#) that tells people what is being done around the country to improve children's nutrition, health and wellbeing.



Croydon Council's Food Flagship programme, which is funded by the council, Mayor of London and Department for Education, has been helping to change the food culture in the borough. We have already seen improvements in schools with breakfast club menus offering more healthy food options and an increasing number of pupils eating school meals. There are also new cooking classes to teach children about healthy eating and training for staff.

Edible Playgrounds have also been created in some Croydon schools, offering vibrant outdoor spaces to educate, engage and inspire children about growing fruit and vegetables.

As well as the work in schools, the Food Flagship has involved promoting healthy food at a series of events. This included the borough's first schools' food market, where pupils ran stalls selling fruit, vegetables, herbs, jams and chutneys they had grown or made at their school. Plus, local food entrepreneurs have also benefitted from the Flagship's support to help them to grow their healthy food businesses.

Our Food Flagship Programme is supporting residents to be healthier so that they can avoid preventable long term conditions like heart disease and stroke. The pop up healthy food zone is also helping to boost the local economy, with great food on offer and employment for those involved in the businesses.

Advice portal gets makeover to improve young lives

Young people in Croydon will now find it easier to access important information for them to make safe and informed decisions about their health and well-being.

www.gettingiton.org.uk – The website for young people aged 13 – 19 years has been given a makeover to better support those living in South West London with essential life skills and the knowledge they need relating to mental health, physical well-being, healthy sexual relationships and substance misuse.

The vibrant redesign of the *Getting It On* website and Facebook page aims to grab the attention of more teenagers living in Croydon, Wandsworth, Kingston, Richmond, Sutton and Merton. The site was designed by The Creative Team, who also involved young people in the development stages.

The website offers free and confidential help and includes details about staying safe online, as well as signposts to appropriate support services and drop-in clinics across south-west London.

Getting It On is a collaboration of the six boroughs working together to support young people to be physically and emotionally healthy as they grow up. The aim of the website is to provide them with the skills they need to be resilient and make confident decisions about their lifestyles and to be aware of any potential risks to their well-being.

Eye-catching posters will also be on local buses to promote the website widely across each borough.

Getting It On is south-west London's online one-stop shop to help young people navigate some of life's ups and downs during their teenage years. At this time in their life they can often feel overwhelmed with a range of issues affecting them, such as their body image, fashion trends, exams and being bullied. It's really important for them to know who to turn to for the most appropriate and up-to-date information for their age group.

We have joined-up resources across south-west London to ensure that this information is consistent and current for all our youngsters. This approach also means that we can simplify structures and provide a range of accessible services that support children and young people to make healthier and confident choices as they approach adulthood.



DELIVERING OUR AMBITIONS

AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON

Croydon Choice is preparing to go live

We are really looking forward to seeing Croydon choice go live at the end of the month. Croydon Choice is our new choice based lettings scheme. It allows housing applicants to make **choices** about where they want to live and the type of home that is most suitable for them. Croydon Choice is a different way of allocating properties in Croydon. Instead of the council contacting an applicant when a suitable home becomes available, the properties will be advertised so that applicants can choose which ones they are interested in (from those that they are eligible for).

How does it work? Previously those on the housing register had to wait until they were contacted by the council with an offer of a property. They could not choose which property they were offered, they did not know what other properties may have been available and they had no notice that they were about to be offered a property. It was also extremely difficult to predict how long someone would have to wait before being offered a property because positions on the housing register constantly changed.

With Croydon Choice, properties are advertised as soon as they become available. This means that those people who are registered for housing know what properties are available and can decide if they want to express an interest (called bidding) for any of the properties being advertised.

Once on the housing register, an applicant is placed in a band according to their level of housing need. Applicants can then tell us which properties they are interested in by 'bidding', or registering an interest.

Why are we doing it? The major benefit of Croydon Choice is that it gives housing applicants choice over where they would like to live. Croydon Choice is a clear, open, understandable, fair and transparent way to access housing. Croydon Choice provides housing applicants with more information to help them find appropriate accommodation in Croydon. It gives feedback on likely chances of getting a council or housing association home and will make applicants aware of other housing options that may be more suitable.

To get up to date information on Croydon Choice, head to www.groydon.gov.uk/allocationschanges Or make contact with the Project Lead – Kirsty - at Kirsty.jenkins@croydon.gov.uk

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

Our primary provider of Mental Health Services in Croydon, the South London & Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLaM), was recently re-inspected by the Care Quality Commission. This was a follow-up to their deep dive inspection in late 2015 which resulted in SLaM becoming the first London mental health trust to receive an overall rating of 'Good'. While the 2015 inspection found some areas of 'outstanding' practice, there were also some areas, notably forensic wards and wards for older people where there was room for improvement. Some of the focus during this year's inspection has included the involvement of carers in support plans and whether service users are provided with culturally appropriate food (such as halal or kosher). I understand the inspectors complimented the team on Croydon's ES1 Ward about the food they provide and their good team work. It will be several weeks before the official report is published but some of the challenges expected to be

picked up by inspectors include staffing shortages and also accommodation issues leading to Delayed Transfers of Care. There are a number of work streams across the Council tackling this latter issue.

Get food-smart with advice from the Change4Life roadshow

A national campaign that aims to help parents take control of their children's diets by ditching sugary snacks and foods high in salt and fat came to Croydon in February and was located at Morrisons supermarket on the Purley Way.

Recent reports show that childhood obesity in London has reached alarming rates. Currently, 22% of four- to five-year-olds are overweight or obese and this increases to 38% in 10- to 11-year-olds.

Childhood obesity is complex and there is not one single intervention that can reduce this issue alone. This is a national, regional and local priority and we're doing lots of good work across the borough to tackle the problem. In particular we have the Food Flagship programme, as well as the School Food Plan and Healthy Schools programme.

Croydon was chosen as one of 29 shopping centres and 40 supermarkets nationally to be visited by the Change4Life Be Food Smart roadshow.



Finance and Treasury

Cabinet Member Bulletin

Councillor Simon Hall

April 2017

Senior Appointments in the Resources Department

There have been three senior appointments made recently in the Resources Department.

In February, Simon Maddocks became Director of Governance and Lisa Taylor became Director of Finance, Investment and Risk and Deputy S151 Officer, after being interviewed for the posts.

In March, Jacqueline Harris-Baker became Director of Law and Monitoring Officer, after a cross-party Appointments Panel that unanimously appointed her.

It is fantastic to see three people who have each served the Council for a considerable period, being promoted. This is a tangible illustration of our commitment to growing our own.

As the top tiers are now complete, albeit with two external appointments still to start, it is notable how much the diversity of the top team has increased over the last three years, showing how our values, including putting equality and diversity at the heart of the organisations, are being reflected in the organisation.

The staff networks were launched two and a half years ago, with me as Cabinet Member sponsor, to make a real difference in the Council's workforce. The work of the various staff networks and the Culture Board that brings that work together has been invaluable to getting to this point. Their continuing work, together with the Positive Steps programme, is aimed at making sure that progress continues to be made at every level and in every part of the Council.

Digital Council of the Year

The Council received the award for Digital Council of the Year at the LGC Awards in March. This recognised the incredible work done with GoOn and the whole digital transformation of the Council, with so many services being digital, over 130,000 residents on MyAccount and the beneficial effects of the IT modernisation, which has enabled staff to work in much more efficiently, collaboratively and agilely.

Well done to all the staff involved in delivering this transformation.



Finance and Treasury

Cabinet Member Bulletin

Councillor Simon Hall

April 2017

Social Value award

Croydon has received a top national award for leading the way on promoting how public spending and private investment can deliver a wide range of benefits to local people.

Social Enterprise UK and the Department for Culture Media & Sport awarded Croydon recognition for the way the council has demonstrated strong organisational leadership in promoting real gains in terms of 'social value'.

This really demonstrates how Croydon's successes are paying dividends in terms of boosting local jobs, increasing local skills, bringing the London Living Wage into contracts, encouraging volunteering, and getting young people out of long-term unemployment.

Budget 2017

The Budget saw a positive announcement, in that the Council will now be receiving extra money in each of the next three years for adult social care. This money, £5.5m. in 2017/18 and reducing thereafter, is extremely welcome. It must be said that the rules that govern it are still not clear, notably regarding how much might need to be allocated to Health or very specific aspects.

As this is money only for the next three years, and is in the context of the overall massive reduction in government funding and spending power, it provides an element of short term help but does not address the underlying demographic pressures in adult social care.

In other areas of government policy, there was no real good news for Croydon. For example, things like welfare reform and the forced sell-off of high value council houses are still going ahead.

Government has indicated that they intend to proceed with the 100% business rates retention from 19/20, together with revisiting the needs formula. It has also indicated that there may be an element of pooling in London in 18/19, although this requires agreement on how this would be done from all 33 local authorities and the Mayor.

It remains to be seen what impact this has on Croydon. Whilst any properly considered revision to the main needs formula is likely to be positive, there are risks such as the impact of whatever additional responsibilities local authorities will have. We will continue to lobby Central Government about Fair Funding for Croydon.



Finance and Treasury

Cabinet Member Bulletin

Councillor Simon Hall

April 2017

Delivering the 2017/18 budget

The Budget has been set with substantial growth but also ambitious savings targets. We recognise that there are real risks on the successful implementation of the budget. The focus, across the Council, is on delivery.

We have sought to manage this, by a number of means, including through the growth we have put in and the prudent forecasting of corporate items.

In recognition of the pressures and risks, we are strengthening further the governance around budget performance and demand management, notably in the People Department. We are looking, even more than before, at what additional initiatives can be introduced and what measures can be accelerated in their implementation. The work on Think Family, the Family Link team and the Community Connect project are examples of this.

We are also monitoring the impact of external factors, such as Government decisions. There are opportunities such as particular bids we have or can put in, some of which have been successful. There are significant risks, however, such as the impact of Immigration Act implementation and funding for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children.

Outcome Based Commissioning for Over 65s

As I write, we are close to signature of the Alliance Agreement, for the integration of health and social care. This agreement, which has the Council and the CCG as commissioners and the Council's Adult Social Care department, Croydon Health Services, SLAM, Croydon's GP collaborative and Age UK Croydon as providers, has taken considerable time to negotiate as all parties wanted to make sure it was right and would offer all the parties' aspiration, in terms of improved outcomes for over 65s at lower cost.

This is an opportunity for us to deliver a much more joined up service for older people and enables more of them to be kept out of hospital and in their homes and in control of their lives.

We have taken learning from across the country, in terms of the risks and opportunities inherent in such a partnership.

The OBC is structured with a one year initial transitional year, with a nine year full integration, with capitated payments by the CCG and the Council in those years. By structuring it in this way, we can ensure focus on transition and provide the safeguards for the citizens of Croydon and the Council.

It is worthy of note that work has already started in pilot areas for some of the principles of OBC, such as Personal Independence Co-ordinators and these are already having a positive effect.



Discretionary Business Rate Relief

Three applications have been approved by Cllr Watson and myself, as part of the business rate relief scheme approved by the Cabinet a few months ago. The diversity of the three successful applicants shows the difference the scheme can make.

We are reviewing the scheme in the light of the discretionary business rates funding that we are to receive from Central Government.

Pension Fund

The actuarial review of the Pension Fund, as at 31 March 2016, has been completed, showing that the Pension Fund's overall funding rate (i.e. the proportion of future liabilities that is represented by assets) has improved from 66% to 73% since 2013. This is particularly pleasing given that the liabilities have risen by 13% in that period (from £1.06bn. to £1.20bn.).

The Council makes contributions for current service (currently 15.1% rising to 16.1% in 19/20) and also makes a contribution to the deficit of the scheme (as does every scheme employer). This would have been £35.4m. over the next three years, but has been reduced by the increased contribution rate and paying the three years upfront to £33.2m.

The latest valuation of the assets, as at 31 December 2016, shows that the fund is now valued at £1,021m., a rise from the £877m. just nine months before.

All of this does show the impact of having the revised investment strategy and the positive and proactive management of the fund.



Culture, Leisure and Sport Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Timothy Godfrey April 2017

Latest News

Grange Park Centenary Field Celebrations – Saturday 15 April 2017

The Centenary Fields programme was launched in 2014 by Fields in Trust President HRH The Duke of Cambridge. (Prince William)

Centenary Fields is working across the UK in partnership with The Royal British Legion and is run by national charity Fields in Trust, to protect playing fields, parks and green spaces as a living memorial to those who lost their lives during World War I.

In practical terms, the dedication of Grange Park as a Centenary Field means that it will forever be protected from development, safeguarding this highly treasured area of green space in the heart of the village of Old Coulsdon for generations to come.

We celebrate and remember those who selflessly contributed so much during World War I and especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice in giving their lives during that war.

I am sure you would agree with me that Grange Park in becoming a Centenary Field is indeed a fitting tribute to those who lost their lives during the first war.

GRANGE PARK

CENTENARY FIELDS
Commemorating World War I 2014-2018

Celebrations

Grange Park is to become the first Centenary Field in South London! Grange Park is to be protected as a playing field, park and green space as a living memorial to those who lost their lives during World War I.

WHERE: Grange Park, Old Coulsdon, CR5 1EA
(Old Coulsdon, at the junction of Coulsdon Road and Canons Hill)

WHEN: Saturday 15 April 2017
10.30AM start – 11.00AM
Followed by Easter Eggstravaganza 11am-3pm

fit
fields in trust

Friends of Grange Park, Old Coulsdon
www.friendsofgrangepark.com

The Mayor of Croydon will be there to open the celebrations.

Come and join Us on this wonderful occasion!
It's FREE

Delivering for Croydon | **CROYDON**
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Culture, Leisure and Sport Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Timothy Godfrey April 2017

Parks Masterplanning

Cabinet approved a report “Ambitious for parks and green spaces in Croydon – working with our communities” in March last year, which sets out how a parks service review will contribute to corporate strategic priorities. The report and associated recommendations has provided the impetus to progress work, to secure the improvement, future use and maintenance of a number of destination parks, through the preparation of site specific masterplans.

A multi-disciplinary team led by Tyréns UK has been appointed to undertake the masterplanning project. It is expected that the masterplans prepared will guide Croydon Council, through engagement with its stakeholders and partners, in taking future strategic decisions relating to parks investment, management and maintenance. If the masterplans successfully provide deliverable and viable outcomes, they could be prepared for other parks in due course.

Six destination parks have been chosen for the project, these include Ashburton Park, Park Hill Recreation Ground, Happy Valley, Lloyd Park, Norbury Park and South Norwood Lake & Grounds. These parks provide a mix of urban and rural sites across the borough. They reflect the significant diversity of local greenspaces, and include Victorian parks with heritage assets, leisure and play facilities, recreational grassland, downland and wooded slopes. This breadth allows officers and the consultant team to explore more holistically, the potential for landscape enhancement, new facilities and management approaches.

The consultant team are pursuing a programme of engagement activity to inform the development of the masterplans, which includes meetings with members and stakeholders, workshops and exhibitions. It is expected that the masterplans will be prepared by September.

Outdoor Active Spaces

Mixed Walking Football kicks off in Wandle Park

In partnership with the Wandle Trust and their Get Active project, mixed walking football started in the park on Sunday 19th March. After many weeks of cajoling - 10 participants signed up, warmed up, bibbed up and strolled after the ball around the marked out pitch area on the playing field.





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Greens played reds in teams made up of the gardening volunteers, parents of, Friends of, regular park users and a new visitor to the park. In a close game the reds eventually won. Great fun was had by all and the general feedback was that the 10 week run is going to be well attended. (photo:stock image)

The Just Live Well service

The Just Live Well service is preparing to meet its first residents early in April. The team of internal Advisors has been recruited, their training is underway and they are spending some time out and about in the community getting to know the “patch” where they will be delivering the face to face intervention with the Croydon residents who are eligible for the service. They will soon be joined by providers from primary care, secondary care and community health organisations.

The JustBe website has now been up and running for almost five months and has had over 4700 visits with in excess of 550 people taking the Health MOT.

South Norwood Country Park - parkrun

In March, a group of enthusiastic volunteers received notification from Croydon Council that they had successfully bid for the Croydon Community Grants fund. The bid of £3,000 will be used with matched funding from parkrun (£3,600) to launch a new 5k running event in South Norwood Country Park. This opportunity will provide Croydon residents with another weekly free, social, timed running event to get involved with each Saturday in the north of the Borough.

Upon receiving the funds, the running group will commence next stage plans to get the event up and running. Further details will be released regarding the launch run as soon as this is available.

Registrars Service

Citizenship Ceremonies:

Consideration is being given into holding these ceremonies in the Braithwaite Hall. This will allow for larger ceremonies to be undertaken fortnightly, making it more of a significant event for those attending and minimising costs by improving efficiency. Trials of the new venue are to commence in April 2017.

Chip & Pin:

All work stations are now chip and pin enabled meaning daily operations are virtually cash free. Now focussing on wedding services to enable on-line payments.



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Bereavement Services

Events

The events programme for 2017 is now available in hard copy and on-line.

Our Easter service is at 2.00pm at Croydon Crematorium with places already being booked, this is always a popular event to start the spring with.

Crematorium

Digital Music System:

This has been well received by both families and funeral directors and is working very well.

This change brings us into line with many other crematoria, expanding our music library and reduce our reliance upon organists. The digital library contains a vast range of music that will cover the majority of tastes and requirements. If the music required is not in the existing library it can be added and stored for future use so the library continues to evolve.

New Burial Land:

Additional work has been undertaken on this project following our unsuccessful planning appeal last year.

Particular focus has been given to the areas highlighted by the planning inspector to address and eliminate any issues raised.

Meetings have been held with Tandridge DC to take a joint collaborative approach which will mutually benefit the residents of both authorities.

A new planning application is being drafted with a view to submitting in April 2017.

Libraries

Books Beyond Words: £92,000 to help people with learning difficulties in Croydon, from Arts Council England.

Croydon is one of four London boroughs to take part in a pilot project helping people with multiple learning difficulties lead a better life through art and literature, as part of an innovative library-led project.

In collaboration with partner organisations specialising in adult social care and education, our libraries will deliver a programme of activities for adults with different learning abilities, encouraging creative expression, and leading to increased literacy, social confidence and pathways into work.



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Culture

The groundfloor space in the Croydon Clocktower known as the Court has taken on a new lease of life as an exhibition space for Croydon. The opening exhibition was the annual showing from the Royal Photographic Society in March with over a 100 exhibits of wide ranging pieces. In early April we will have a visit from the London Screen Archives viewing pod and later in the month a larger than usual exhibition from the Croydon Art Society.

Last month the Croydon Clocktower and the Town Hall also played host to the highly successful Croydonites, festival of contemporary theatre, now in its 3rd year in Croydon. This year the festival was larger than before with a number of sell out shows using all available spaces including the tunnels under the Town Hall.

The Cultural Partnership fund continues to support an increasing number of successful funding applications in Croydon, bringing in additional funding to the borough for activities in festivals, in galleries and dance most recently.

CROYDON'S TREASURE TROVE OF HISTORY ACCREDITED

Croydon's treasure trove of historical documents has received Archive Service Accreditation from The National Archives for its high standards and care in preserving the borough's heritage.

Croydon Council's archive was awarded the status in recognition of good practice in collecting, preserving and ensuring access for all through the Museum of Croydon Research Room at Croydon Clocktower.

The archive collections provide a fascinating glimpse into the borough's rich and diverse past. As well as the Council's own historic records, they include items from more than 150 schools, some dating back to the 1870s, as well as other institutions such as the workhouse and Cane Hill Asylum. The records of local businesses also provide a window into the borough's history, including those of Croydon based bell-founders Gillett & Johnston, whose products have been shipped all over the world since 1844.

These are held alongside many smaller collections such as diaries and letters including the personal correspondence of Reverend Alexander Sandison, a clergyman based in Croydon during World War 1. Among the more surprising items is a teaching application from novelist D. H. Lawrence, who taught in a Croydon school.



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Croydon's historic connection with the Archbishops of Canterbury brings added significance to the collection. Items of particular interest include a 'terrier' listing land ownership dating from 1492 and original 16th century letters from Archbishop John Whitgift.

The team are currently supporting a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) project to increase understanding and access to the Fairfield Halls archives including planning ledgers, signature books and programmes.

This will culminate in an exhibition at the Museum of Croydon from May 2017

The archives continues to collect records to strengthen our understanding of the rich history of Croydon. The service offers sessions for schools and community groups, helping local people to gain an invaluable understanding of the Borough's past.





Culture, Leisure and Sport Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Timothy Godfrey April 2017

Delivering our Ambitions

Little Red Riding Hood comes to the Central children's library in June.

Thanks to a project developed by our library team, London Mozart Players and Nouvague - two concerts will be run on the 1st June in our newly refurbished children's library.

The concerts will be free and craft events before the performances will encourage the children attending to make masks and hats so they really feel involved in the musical and storytelling event.

Information on how to get free tickets will be published shortly and all children and their families will be welcome to apply through their library membership.

I hope to see more cultural cross over activities delivered in the library network.

Working Together

Croydon Tech City provided a *Coder Dojo event in the Central children's library on Saturday 11th February.

23 children and their parents, 7 boys and 15 girls plus a 3-year-old who was playing a coding game with her Dad, along with 5 volunteers - who work with other London Coder Dojo's attended.

It is great to see young people being encouraged and supported to learn about computer programming. Great use of library space.

*The Coder Dojo movement believes that an understanding of programming languages is increasingly important in the modern world, that it's both better and easier to learn these skills early, and that nobody should be denied the opportunity to do so.



Clean Green Croydon Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Stuart Collins April 2017

Big Belly Bin Introduction

Phase one of the roll out of the Big Belly Solar Litter Bins has been completed. The units have been placed in key locations throughout the Borough and are proving to be very popular with members of the public.

The foot pedal on each litter bin enables hygienic disposal of litter and the dual ash tray system provides additional storage for discarded cigarette butts. The less frequent collection of bins is reducing contractor's vehicles visits allowing the sweepers to spend more time sweeping thus creating a much healthier and cleaner environment.

Phase two of the installations to include Croydon High Street and North End will take place from week commencing 17th of April.



Croydon on BBC One Show

“Croydon Council has recently been recognised as one of the leading authorities, in the fight against fly tipping. As highlighted on BBC’s ‘The One Show’ on 8th March 2017, Croydon Councils Environmental Enforcement team have managed to confiscate a staggering twenty five vans and trucks, not sixteen as mentioned. Some of these have been crushed as they had been used for fly tipping or for illegally transferring waste within the borough.

Through collaborative work with colleagues from other departments, partners at the Environmental Agency and the local safer neighbourhood police, the Council has been able to take advantage of new legislation which enables it to seize vehicles used in environmental offences.

Going forward, the Council’s Environmental Enforcement officers will conduct surveillance and investigations, in order to continue providing the residents of Croydon with the highest level of service possible.

AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON



Clean Green Croydon Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Stuart Collins April 2017

Community Clean Ups

With well over 300 street champions there are always community clean ups going on. Most recently we have had Thornton Heath Community Action Team litter pick the High Street and side roads clearing 30 bags over two days with 15 residents taking part. Baitus Subhan Mosque organised for over 30 of the youth group to carry out litter picks in London Road, Norbury and North End collecting over 40 bags of litter. The Love Norbury Group with the 5 residents associations took part in a community clean-up day with over 60 residents in attendance they litter picked and cleaned off stickers from lampposts. Spring Park Residents Association cleared 20 bags of litter with 15 members of the Residents Association from Woodland at the top of Bridle Road. The Friends of Thornton Heath Recreation Ground supported by Thames 21 carried out a clean-up of Norbury Brook 30 residents cleared over 60 bags of litter.



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Transport and Environment Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Stuart King April 2017

Latest News

Parking Charges frozen...again

I was pleased to propose and secure agreement that there should be no increase in on-street pay and display parking charges in Croydon for the coming year, 2017/18. As a consequence, 543 different parking charges have been frozen at their current price.

In addition the council has kept the charge for resident and business parking permits unchanged: one of many ways this council is trying to help keep costs down for Croydon families, businesses and their customers. This is the third consecutive year that Croydon has frozen permit costs for our residents since this administration took office in 2014.

London's new Walking & Cycling Commissioner visits Croydon

London's first Walking and Cycling Commissioner visited Croydon last month to learn about the council's plans to put the borough on a par with the most cycle-friendly cities in Europe.

I was delighted to meet with Will Norman, London's Walking and Cycling Commissioner, to take him on a tour of our town centre. He experienced first-hand the benefits of the council's extensive public realm improvement programme, which has been delivered to make it quicker, easier and more pleasant to travel round Croydon's growing town centre on foot. This first phase has already seen £50million invested in creating step-free, pedestrian routes that join up different areas of the town centre, including transport hubs and shops. The next phase will focus on improving and joining up cycle routes.



Will was really impressed with both our ambition and the early results of our efforts - such as the pedestrian link through Ruskin Square joining East Croydon with the shops, and the crossing at Wellesley Road. But most importantly it was good to talk to him about the future.

Will particularly welcomed the council's plans to make walking and cycling a key part of Croydon's future as the town's £5.25bn regeneration progresses. He said: "It's fantastic to see walking and cycling being built into the future fabric of Croydon. Croydon is changing and the town's growth is already evident with the new developments all around us. It's great to see the council planning for and investing in new pedestrian routes and cycle lanes, so that, as the town regenerates and develops, people have sustainable ways of travelling." That's a great verdict on what we have achieved to date and what we want to achieve in the future.

AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON



Transport and Environment Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Stuart King April 2017

East Croydon bus station

East Croydon bus station reopened earlier this month following completion of the final phase of upgrade works.

New shelters and signposts, better lighting, new public seating, improved pedestrian access and tree planting are among the improvements made to the bus station on Addiscombe Road, which dated back to the late 1990s.



The improvements around the interchange, which also includes new paving, will ensure easier connections for people moving between buses, trains and trams at East Croydon station, with better links between eastbound and westbound bus stops.

The works were part of a £5.4m joint project between Croydon Council and Transport for London, as part of the Delivering for Croydon programme, which aims to improve Croydon's streets, squares and open spaces.

The first phase of the major improvements were completed last year, when cladded seating was installed on the tram platform, the carriageway was resurfaced and new paving was put in place on George Street from Wellesley Road to the station.

East Croydon is one of the main gateways to our town centre and the previous bus station was outdated and difficult to navigate. The upgrade has ensured the area around the station is accessible, welcoming and attractive to visitors and residents alike, giving the best first impressions of Croydon.

National Urban Design Awards 2017

Croydon Council has been announced as the winner of the Public Sector category awards at the National Urban Design Awards 2017. The award was given for the Council's work devising and delivering the Connected Croydon programme of public realm and transport infrastructure improvements in central Croydon over the past few years.

The programme, which saw a series of public realm projects and transport improvements carried out to transform public spaces in Croydon, beat entries submitted by councils from around the country to the top spot at the awards ceremony.

As part of Connected Croydon, the East Croydon Bridge and pedestrian link was installed connecting the station to Lansdowne Road and improvements were also made to the public realm around London Road, Old Town and South End, creating new and improved spaces. The project also saw the delivery of the Wellesley Road crossing, improvements made to the roundabout at the junction of Lansdowne Road and Dingwall Road, as well as improved efficiency and attractiveness of Croydon's two major public transport interchanges at East and West Croydon.

AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON



Transport and Environment Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Stuart King April 2017

Car Clubs

As well as encouraging cycling, walking and greater use of public transport, Croydon is also tackling air pollution from cars and vans by promoting car clubs. On average each vehicle in a car club representing the equivalent of 5-10 cars no longer owned and kept on local roads. The council's own Zipcar fleet is used by members of the public in evenings and at the weekend. Newer developments in places with excellent public transport are often now "car free", provided they include a car club on or near the site. This is also applying to some of the council's own Brick by Brick developments. Where are also proactively seeking to expand the network of electric vehicle charging point to encourage greater take up of electric cars and vans.

Blackhorse Lane Bridge update

The Concept Design for bridge replacement /widening started in December 2016. This was followed by a number of feasibility options for inclusion of cycleway along Blackhorse Lane. Following consultation with relevant local ward councillors a shared cycleway/pedestrian footway single option with reduced road width (6m minimum) was chosen by the Council in February and progressed for highway realignment concept design.

The site investigations have been completed, including topographical, geotechnical & structural investigations (boreholes/ coring), environmental/ecological investigations (incl.bat surveys), utilities consultations and utilities surveys across the bridge.

The bridge and highway concept designs are progressing as planned with output (drawings, outline specifications) scheduled for completion by late April 2017. The London Trams bridge concept design is scheduled for completion by mid-April.

In order to ensure that ward councillors and local residents are kept informed of progress on this project, public noticeboards have been erected nearby and a monthly progress report will be circulated to ensure maximum awareness of both the plans and progress that is being made to deliver them.

Delivering our Ambitions

1 Hour Free Parking

Drivers in and around Croydon are set to get one hour free parking in district centres, an increase in the existing 30 minutes free tariff, in a bid to help businesses in our district centres by making it easier for motorists to shop locally. The scheme is goes live on Monday 03 July 2017.

The decision was taken following feedback from small business owners across the borough, who told us very clearly that this would benefit their businesses. By making the first hour free of charge in these parking bays, we are making it quicker, easier and less expensive for people to park outside their local shops for a short time while still keeping the traffic flowing.



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The new policy will replace the existing 30 minutes free parking in Croydon's 9 district centres. The centres set to benefit are Purley, Coulsdon, Selsdon, New Addington, Thornton Heath, South Norwood, Norbury, Crystal Palace and Addiscombe.

I explain more about this policy here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W0vWLEZfCY>

20mph limits extended to hundreds of roads

More Croydon homes and schools will begin to benefit from safer, cleaner and greener streets as another 20mph speed limit went live in hundreds of roads at the end of March.

The council launched 20mph speed limits across north-east Croydon as part of our pledge to make Croydon a 20mph borough by 2018. The 20mph limit is now effective in all streets in that area, apart from major through roads and a few where it would be impractical. The roads included in the new changes all have 20mph signs and if speeding remains an issue, further action can be taken which could include traffic calming measures as well as requests for targeted police enforcement.



Widespread 20mph limits reduce the risk and severity of accidents, and cut congestion and pollution levels by discouraging car use and rat-running in quieter streets. By making roads safer they also encourage greener methods of travel like walking and cycling.

The new zone was launched at The Robert Fitzroy Academy, one of 22 schools in the north-east area which will benefit from safer streets. Welcoming the launch Laura Channell, the school's Travel Plan Leader said: "We are over the moon that there is now a 20mph limit surrounding the school. Hopefully this will make it safer for parents, children and residents within the area.

This council promised to make Croydon's streets safer by reducing the speed at which motorists should travel, and we are delivering on that promise. Everyone knows reducing the speed at which cars travel makes roads safer, helps to prevent accidents and ultimately saves lives. This is about making the areas where we live safer and easier to walk about in, particularly for the most vulnerable such as children, and we know this is a priority for many Croydon residents and schools who have lobbied us for this change. Slowing motorists down will also make our roads more accessible for cyclists and pedestrians, thereby encouraging greener methods of transport. The importance of slowing motorists down cannot be underestimated and I'm delighted to see more people will benefit from a 20mph limit on their street.



Transport and Environment Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Stuart King April 2017

Play Street Update

Play Streets are operating successfully in a number of streets in the borough. Croydon is particularly proud of Love Lane which was named London Play Street of the Year. I am also delighted that we have our first school organised Play Street at Robert Fitzroy Academy. Play Streets are a road closure, usually for a couple of hours one Sunday a month, for children to play and other residents to have a chat and get to know each other. We would like to see many more Play Streets in Croydon, they are very easy to arrange.



If you are interested in organising one in your street visit:

www.croydon.gov.uk/healthsocial/families/ccfpartnership/playstreets or contact cfp@croydon.gov.uk for more information.

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Economy and Jobs Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Mark Watson April 2017

Latest News

LGC News 2017

These prestigious awards showcase local government's commitment to innovation and sharing best practice. With a record breaking number of entries this year, we were extremely proud to be among the shortlist in five separate categories:

- People's Gateway Enablement and Welfare Service - Innovation category.
- Independent Travel Programme - Business Transformation category.
- Growth in Croydon - Driving Growth category.
- Digital Croydon - Digital Council of the Year category.
- A Partnership approach to tackling Domestic and Sexual Violence in Croydon - Children's Services category.

Croydon Council won the award for:-

Digital Council of the Year

In awarding the accolade to Croydon the panel were particularly impressed with the breadth of its community empowerment and the range of digital activities that had a material impact on changing people's lives in different ways. The recent 'Go On Croydon' project saw basic digital skills increase by over 12% across Croydon over a year long period, with over 40 community facilities set up across a number of organisations and locations and an innovative approach to recycling laptops and pc's into the community.



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Small Business Friendly Borough Awards

Great news! Croydon Council was announced as a finalist in three categories at the Small Business Friendly Borough Awards.

Organised by the Federation of Small Businesses and London Councils, the awards recognise local council support for small businesses.

Croydon was in the running for awards in the Best All Round Small Business Friendly Borough and Best Small Business Friendly Procurement to Support Local Trade categories and was nominated and shortlisted for the Best Small Business Champion award.

I am proud to champion the small businesses in the borough. More and more businesses are recognising the benefits of setting up their company here in Croydon and it is fantastic the support the council is giving to help them grow and succeed is being recognised in this way.

It was fantastic that Croydon was a finalist in three of the five award categories. The council understands the integral role small businesses play in creating a strong economy and more jobs in Croydon and these nominations are testament to the council's work in supporting them.

If you would like to get involved email carol.squires@croydon.gov.uk

Working Together

Small Business Commission

Representatives from our small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Croydon have been invited to share their views on how the council can support local companies in becoming more successful.

Local businesses from across the borough attended the launch of the 'Have Your Say' event, which was hosted by Croydon's Small Business Commission and shared their experiences on the barriers to and opportunities for growth, for Croydon local business community.

The event which was held at the town hall on Tuesday 28 February, was the first to be held by the newly appointed commission and gave local businesses' their first chance to speak directly with the commissioners about their experiences and the challenges they have faced in trying to grow their business.



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Made up of representatives from local SMEs and business groups, the commission - which was set up last year - is using workshops, a survey and individual visits to aid its research into what helps and hinders the economic growth of Croydon businesses.

The information gathered during their investigation will result in a report, which will be published in the summer. It will detail recommendations for action, which will shape how council services support local businesses to help them grow in the future.

The Small Business Commission is working to identify in detail, what can be done better to boost the local economy by supporting our SME business community. We would encourage representatives from all local businesses to feed their thoughts and experiences into the commission and help shape the outcome of their investigation, as we work towards improving the borough's economic growth.

Council joins forces with local businesses to fight rate revaluation

Croydon Council has joined forces with local businesses and written to the government calling on it to stop its attack on small companies and rethink its business rates revaluation.

Under the current plans Croydon firms will see an average 19% increase in their business rates, in addition to other costs being imposed such as the apprenticeship levy, auto enrolment for pensions and insurance premium tax.

The letter to Greg Clarke MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, exposes the devastating impact the planned increase will have on small businesses in Croydon.

I am concerned that the intended rates revaluation, coupled with the other additional costs, will result in many Croydon businesses struggling to meet the increased bills, which will stunt the borough's growth and slow investment and job creation at a time when confidence and stability are crucial to Croydon's economic success.

Representatives from the Croydon Business Network, which includes the local business improvement districts (BIDs), Croydon Tech City, the Federation of Small Businesses and the Chamber of Commerce joined me in signing the letter.

This jointly written letter calls on valuations in London to be separated from the national valuation system to prevent the capital's businesses facing a disproportionate rate increase; and for the government to work in collaboration with the council on a system that is fairer for the borough's businesses.

The proposed business rates increase leaves Croydon businesses in an extremely vulnerable position at a time when they should be being supported. A slowdown in growth for Croydon would not only impact badly on local businesses, but also on those in surrounding areas too.



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Croydon Council stands side by side with local businesses and calls on the Secretary of State to stop this attack and rethink the disproportionate increase it is proposing. We want the government to work with us to get the best possible outcome for Croydon businesses, which will continue the delivery of economic prosperity in the borough.

Milestone for Croydon Works as 100th person is supported into employment

I am delighted that our jobs brokerage service has successfully secured employment for over 100 people.

Croydon Works launched last July to ensure Croydon residents benefit from the employment opportunities created through the borough's regeneration, particularly those with barriers to employment.

The free job-matching service is designed to provide Croydon employers with job-ready local, qualified employees, and residents with the support and training they need to find sustainable, quality jobs locally.

Delivered by Croydon Council in partnership with Croydon College, Job Centre Plus and voluntary sector organisations, the service provides a wide range of pathways into employment including sector specific training, apprenticeships and traineeships, work experience placements, career and CV advice.

Those registered with the service receive employability support and access to vacancies across a vast number of organisations in Croydon and surrounding areas.

I would like to congratulate Aaron Abbott who was the 100th person to secure full time work through Croydon Works. The 22-year-old, who had been unemployed for one month now works as a Labourer for construction company Mulalley.

Aaron said: "I relished the prospect of working locally for Mulalley, particularly as I am working on the old Ashburton Library refurbishment project which I used to visit when I was younger. I found the process of obtaining employment very enjoyable and everyone was helpful. I am enjoying settling into my position and the tasks I am given each day."

Bruce Benson, Operations Director at Mulalley, added "We use Croydon Works to help us recruit local people due to their excellent links to the local community and their proactive approach. Aaron is a welcome addition to our workforce in Croydon and has quickly become a valued member of the team."



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As well as Mulalley, Croydon Works has helped prospective employees secure roles at BoxPark Croydon and local cleaning and building services Chequers contract services, while others have completed training in food hygiene and working in hospitality.

Croydon Works is doing a fantastic job and to have helped over 100 local people who were unemployed into the work and into training is a real achievement.

Being in work or on a training course boosts confidence and skills, which can often be lost through unemployment. Croydon Works is helping local people into local jobs, which is great news for Croydon's economy.

By moving local people into employment, Croydon Works makes a significant contribution to the local economy and delivers savings to the public purse. Based on current performance it is estimated that residents who have moved off benefits by gaining employment through Croydon Works will save the public purse £593,000 and contribute £1,200,000 to the local economy in their first year of employment. Residents who were previously unemployed but not on benefits will add a further £336,000 to the local economy and working residents moving into better paid jobs through Croydon Works this will add further money to the local economy and public purse.

Delivering our Ambitions

Croydon to lead procurement for the South London Work and Health Programme

Croydon will commission the delivery of the employment support programme to residents across the South London sub-region for the first time. Working with Merton, Kingston, Richmond and Sutton to develop the requirements for a new local programme of employment support in the South London sub-region, Croydon has taken the lead for the procurement and future contract management of the devolved funding.

The new programme which is expected to begin in spring 2018 will concentrate on helping people into jobs, who have been unemployed for longer than two years or who have struggled to get into work due to health problems or disability. One-to-one advice and support from a case worker will also be offered as part of the programme to address the often complex barriers to employment. The support will be integrated with the existing services offered by the councils and other local partners, which will ensure local expertise is drawn upon when helping on additional matters such as basic skills, training, health, housing and 'English for Speakers of Other Languages'.

Local authorities across the capital will share funding from the Department for Work and Pensions and the European Social Fund, working together through four sub-regional contracts which will be procured over the next 12 months. Croydon is the leading borough on the procurement for the

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South London Partnership and about £15m will be spent on the delivery of the programme in Croydon, Kingston, Merton, Richmond and Sutton between 2018 and 2023.

Business Surgery

The first Addiscombe and Ashburton Business Surgery was held at St Mildred's Church on 1 March 2017; around 10 businesses attended and participated in constructive conversations about issues and opportunities facing the district centre.

Matters raised by businesses included commuter parking, Blackhorse Lane Bridge closure, business rates and the volume of charity shops on the high street.

The drop-in was set-up to build on the recent investment and success of the public realm improvements by seeking to facilitate a business group for Addiscombe. The business group could then come together to decide on and implement community and stakeholder activities and interventions, as well as channel collective local concerns. The business group would be underpinned with officer support from Croydon Council and potentially work with local residents groups.

The next step will be to continue to engage with businesses to discuss the establishment of a business group.

For more information, contact Richard Green, Economic Development Manager via 0208 726 6000 (Ext 63864) or richard.green@croydon.gov.uk

Croydon leads delivery of pop up shops to support traders

The council led pop up shops at numbers 10, 14 and 16 Portland Road have reported that they are trading successfully. In addition to the day-to-day business, the tenants are holding exhibitions and classes involving arts and crafts. Local residents are benefiting from the scheme; the tenants at number 14 and 16 have employed a Barista and a trainee and the tenant at number 14 is currently interviewing for an Apprentice.

Croydon Council are once again exploring options for supporting new pop up shops in the borough to help to bring empty retail units back into use. A successful competition last summer saw three lucky businesses win the chance to run their own businesses in South Norwood, thanks to the council's negotiations with the local landlord. These businesses will operate from the three



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neighbouring units on Portland Road in South Norwood for a year, and are already making their mark on the local community, breathing new life into the area.

The council is therefore looking to replicate this success with similar projects. We are opening discussions with local agents and landlords for properties that could be brought back into use, in South Norwood and in other district centres in the borough. So watch this space, a new pop up shop may be opening in your local high street soon.

For further information, please contact Sarah Hitchcock, Regeneration Manager via sarah.hitchcock@croydon.gov.uk or on 020 8726 6000 x 61803.

Surrey Street

Surrey Street plans are progressing; The Architect's design was handed to the contractors to develop the detailed design and the works have started on site. This keeps us working towards a completion date in June. The market has been relocated to North End, with some of the food traders in the Queen's Gardens while the contractors are on site. In addition, a new neon art installation was installed on 15 February. The art work on the air con units is complete, and conversations are ongoing with other key property owners including Grants, Surrey House and Specsavers for additional art work. Following the consultation event on 23 February, the Architects and the Art Advisor, Kevin Zuchowski-Morrison, are now progressing proposals based on feedback from the consultation including design and location of a new arch.



Communities, Safety and Justice

Cabinet Member Bulletin

Councillor Hamida Ali

April 2017

Cabinet Member bulletin

#WeStandTogether

The racist group attack on 17 year-old Reker Ahmed and the fatal stabbing of 23 year-old Bjorn Brown have shocked our community and focused the eyes of the nation and beyond on Croydon.

On 11 April, the Council in partnership with Croydon Voluntary Action (CVA) brought together in solidarity community members with the Borough Commander, the Bishop of Croydon, Leader of the Council, Leader of the Opposition, MPs, and representatives from City Hall. In a packed room, livestreamed online, leaders condemned the attack on Reker Ahmed and offered reassurance while community members reflected their shock at what had happened in Croydon – and together everyone upheld the universal principle of love to combat hate.

On 5 April the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Sajid Javid, visited the site of the attack together with the Leader of the Council, the local MP, Gavin Barwell and Kurdish community leader Ibrahim Dogus.

Recent months have also seen an increase in incidents of knife crime. The Council is working closely with the police, other agencies and voluntary sector partners to engage with communities on a preventative response to engage schools, parents and young people to tackle the roots of this problem effectively.

Public Space Protection Order Consultation

The council is considering a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for the town centre, which would propose to continue the no-drinking zone using tools available to the council under new anti-social behaviour legislation. The proposals will also seek to support and protect our young people in the town centre after school.

A PSPO is an order designed to prevent anti-social behaviour in a public place. It would maintain the police's power to stop drinking in public within the no drinking zone and new powers to address behaviours causing harassment, alarm or distress.



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A public consultation must be carried out regarding any proposals and this will take place shortly – and a final proposal taken to cabinet for approval.

Community Safety Strategy 2017-2020

Following extensive consultation and feedback, Croydon's Community Safety Strategy 2017-2020 is close to completion and will be tabled at Cabinet in May. The key priorities proposed are:

- Reduce the overall crime rate in Croydon, with a focus on violent crime and domestic abuse
- Improve the safety of children and young people
- Improve public confidence and community engagement.
- Tackle anti-social behaviour and environmental crime
- Improve support and reduce vulnerability for all victims of crime, with a focus on hate crime

Social Security Reform

This Council has played a leading role in the national debate on the implementation of Universal Credit (UC) – in part due to the national recognition for the Gateway Service, the council's response to recent social security reforms. Croydon has the highest caseload of UC claimants in the country at this stage in the roll out of the new system. As a result of our experience, we have been lobbying government consistently for the removal of emergency and temporary accommodation from UC because the way it is designed – by not establishing a rental liability until the 5th week – contradicts the council's legal duty to move people out of emergency accommodation within 6 weeks. Rent arrears have increased very significantly as a direct result – with severe financial implications both for the council and the residents affected. The council has given evidence on this point to the House of Commons Work and Pensions Select Committee and has met with senior policy officials within the DWP working on UC and we are hopeful that our experience is being considered very seriously.

As of this month, new reforms to social security made by the government take effect which include removing entitlement to housing costs from some young people aged

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18-21. Young people in this age group who are already receiving either housing benefit or universal credit for their housing costs won't be affected. We currently have just over 250 residents who are in this category and we are taking every step to protect their financial assistance with their housing costs.

Other changes which take effect this month include Universal Credit no longer paying an additional amount for a third or further child in a family. Families with a third children born on or after 6 April 2017 will be affected and we are working closely with our colleagues in Public Health, Children's Social Care and our Registrars to communicate these changes to residents.

The Benefit Cap has also been further reduced from £26,000 to £23,000, affecting over 1,000 residents in the borough. Council officers are working with residents affected providing support to get into employment, education or receiving discretionary support with housing costs and looking at options to move to cheaper accommodation.