



Leader of the Council Councillor Tony Newman June 2017

Latest News

All our thoughts this week have, of course, been focused on the awful Grenfell Tower tragedy and its victims, our prayers are with them. The Council has offered assistance to Kensington and Chelsea Council including an offer of accommodation.

In terms of a detailed report, Cllr Alison Butler will reference in her report and we will endeavour to keep all colleagues briefed.

On behalf of Croydon along with other borough leaders, I laid a wreath in honour of those who lost their lives in the brutal attack at London Bridge. Our thoughts are with all their families and those still recovering in hospital.



Of course, I'd also like to express my condolences after the tragic events in Manchester. A lot of compassion from our local people went out to Manchester and it was heartening to see our diverse community join together in the face of such an awful act committed to incite terror.

Croydon held a minute's silence with the rest of the nation outside its Town Hall in honour of those who died both in London and Manchester.



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After the excellent news from the General Elections, I wanted to celebrate the huge success of Croydon Central being won by the fantastic Sarah Jones MP for Labour. She is the first ever female MP to hold Croydon. It's a fitting show to the local people that Croydon truly is a progressive borough as we also have our first ever female chief executive in Jo Negrini.



I'd like to thank the young people of Croydon for coming out in droves to vote and make their voices heard in the General Elections. This fantastic result is also due to their efforts and it's so heartening to see them investing in their futures in Croydon.

The Croydon Cycle Fest took place on 18 May and was a brilliant event with a fantastic turn out. I was proud to see that the rain did little to dampen the spirits of our cycling enthusiasts as they took part in a host of community activities organised to promote cycling and encourage wellbeing to coincide with the Pearl Izumi Tour Series on 7 June.

It just goes to show the Croydon is definitely on the map. We have so many fantastic events going on here and Croydon is finally getting the recognition it deserves as a place to be.

During the evening, some of Britain's leading professional cyclists did battle for the penultimate round of the nation's leading team series. The event also included a race along part of the



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course for local schools, opportunities for disabled riders to try out specialist bikes and a charity race around the whole track.

I was proud to see Elizabeth Jane Harris win the women's race after she had spent that morning in a Croydon school teaching our young people about the benefits of cycling and fitness.

I've been out and about a lot recently visiting our wards to get more in touch with our residents with little fanfare. Most recently, I've been up to Addiscombe, Ashburton and New Addington and I'll be heading over to Purley soon enough. It's been a fantastic way to get to know what the people have to say about what is going on in their area.



I've gained a lot of insight into what concerns our local people. For example, when I went to visit Addiscombe, the independent business owners I spoke to were quite troubled about the Government rise in business rates and how it would affect them. It was fantastic being able to personally reassure them by talking them through what the Council were doing to help.

In Ashburton, we spoke to a few residents who truly welcome local housing for local people and the work going on to regenerate their homes. I plan to keep going out to the wards and getting to know Croydon this way.

I also appreciated being able to see the fine work our officers are doing to keep Croydon clean and tidy. I'm really proud to say that they have been doing a brilliant job of keeping our street scene clear. The residents themselves have also been a great help with the community clean ups they've organised. It's been fantastic witnessing our residents coming together as a community like that and achieving great results.



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I'm excited to hear that the Croydon Youth Zone, named by young people as 'Legacy' and located in Whitehorse Road Thornton Heath, will be completed in 2018.

Legacy will be a purpose-built facility open seven-days-a-week with more than 20 activities on offer every session for young people aged 8-19, or up to 25 for those with a disability from the borough. It's fantastic to see that so much is going into keeping our young people safe and provisioned. There has been a history of underinvestment in the youth and Legacy will be an important part in changing that.

Youth Zones are safe, inspiring and affordable places for young people to spend their leisure time. Not only will the Youth Zone support those hard to reach young people, some from deprived backgrounds, but it will also provide a supportive and exciting place that all our young people from the borough can access to help them live happier lives.



Croydon's Fairfield Halls is progressing fantastically. The plan for the building design has already received an award and it was great to read the Croydon Guardian article praising the Halls.



I am proud to say that we are putting art and culture in the very centre of our town as the Halls are being turned into a state of the art performance venue. It's such an

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important landmark to our residents and I'm glad to say that it's going fantastically as the Council's development company, Brick by Brick, is now on site, with the refurbishment due to be completed in 2018.

Councillor Tony Newman

Leader of the Council

CLr Alison Butler - Homes and Regeneration

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Latest News – Regeneration

Taberner House

Croydon Council's planning committee approved plans for a major regeneration project on the former Taberner House site and a revival of The Queen's Gardens.

On 18 May, committee members unanimously approved the new development to consist of four buildings ranging from 13-35 storeys providing 514 new homes, of which 179 will be affordable and 13,000 sq foot of retail and office space. The Queen's Gardens will be enhanced with new landscaping, play area, pavilion café and a new east-west route encouraging pedestrian travel around the town centre.

The ambitious scheme is the fifth collaboration between HUB and social impact investor Bridges Ventures. They've engaged Stirling Prize winning architects Allford Hall Monaghan Morris and Grant Associates to design the buildings and landscaping.

Shifa Mustafa, the council's executive director for place, said: "I'm also delighted that The Queen's Gardens, a valued oasis in our town centre, will be revitalised as a stunning new, high-quality public space with a community café and play area. The developers have engaged with the community from the outset regarding what they would like to see on the site, so local people have really helped shape the plans.

She added: "Taberner House was always an important part of the Croydon panorama and the exceptional design of this development means once again, this will be a site for Croydon to be proud of."

Steve Sanham, managing director of HUB, said: "There's a fundamental belief at HUB in the importance not only of delivering sustainable developments, but doing whatever we can to ensure that those developments respect, and talk to the communities that already exist in an area. We took the time to talk to local people, lots of people, we researched the long history of the site, and developed a proposal for Taberner House and The Queen's Gardens, which we are very happy, has been given the blessing of the council. We're very much looking forward to putting a spade in the ground."

Brick by Brick

Brick by Brick, the development company established by the council, was granted planning permission for its first batch of developments to build new, affordable homes in Croydon.

Planning permission has now been granted for 539 new homes on sites throughout the borough of which 235 (44%) will be affordable housing.

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Brick by Brick was set up to ensure Croydon residents had access to high quality, affordable housing. It aims to deliver around 1,000 new homes on a range of smaller sites across the borough by 2019.

Half of the properties built by Brick by Brick through its smaller sites programme will be affordable homes, with the remaining 50 percent being for private sale. There's a local sales and lettings policy on all homes, giving local people priority.

It is fantastic Brick by Brick's first batch of homes have been granted planning consent. Croydon is in desperate need of good quality, affordable housing and this innovative approach will enable many of our residents who are homeless or stuck in temporary accommodation, the chance to move into affordable homes of their own.

Managing director and CEO of Brick by Brick, Colm Lacey, said: "We are delighted to have received planning permission for the first group of developments. This is a really key milestone for the company and we look forward to successfully delivering these schemes for Croydon residents."

For more information on Brick by Brick projects see www.bxbdevelopment.com or follow @bxbdevelopment on Twitter.

Thornton Heath Shop fronts

The Shop fronts Improvement Scheme has seemingly generated unanimous approval and recognition from residents and business alike.

Some freeholders of properties in the area have subsequently found the investment confidence to refurbish their own High Street units such as 32-34 Thornton Heath High Street and the Children's Clothes shop at the end of Cotford Parade. In addition, we have successfully linked in the property managing agents of the area who have confirmed that they are taking viewings for some of the redundant units in the area.

It is evident that the council's commitment to Thornton Heath by way of physical interventions and aesthetic improvements has added real value to the commercial area and has stimulated interest from other commercial investors and subsequently shaped an improved perception of the area.



Latest News - Homes

Croydon Choice goes live

Croydon choice went live on Monday, 22 May 2017. I take this opportunity to congratulate all the officers involved in this for a very successful launch.

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 are offered, they did not know what other properties may have been available and they have no notice that they are 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

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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.

2,556 applicants who are currently approved are able to bid on Croydon Choice (these are applicants whose circumstances have been verified). In the first two weeks since go live, 879 logged in, and of these 648 applicants placed bids for properties. 573 bids so far have been made using the mobile app. So far also 30 properties have been advertised.

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 and 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.

For more information

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

Partnership with Causeway Irish Housing Association (CIHA) on homelessness

Croydon Council has teamed up with a not-for-profit organisation to introduce a new kind of accommodation aimed at encouraging more homeless adults out of hostels and into work and independent living.

13 homeless men have moved from local hostels into a shared house in central Croydon that offers cheaper rent and greater independence as they move back into work. Set up by Croydon Council's Gateway service that helps homeless people or those at risk of homelessness, the partnership with Causeway Irish Housing Association (CIHA) aims to give hostel residents an extra incentive to get a job – and ultimately a council property – while also freeing up much-needed spaces in supported accommodation. The 13 people, aged 25-55 and working in sectors from construction to retail, were chosen because they met the council's project criteria of having a job, no rent arrears and modelling good behaviour.

The partnership with CIHA means the tenants of the three-storey flat will pay around £200 less rent per month than in the private sector, and up to £300 less per month for staying in a

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hostel. Causeway Irish Housing Association is a not-for-profit organisation providing temporary accommodation primarily for young single homeless people in London.

Joanne Murray, Causeway Irish Housing Association's director, said: "We're delighted to be able to assist Croydon in resettling people from supported accommodation through this project. We're impressed by how proactive the council has been in finding solutions for single homeless people and we're very pleased to be a part of it."

New powers against landlords

The housing and planning act 2016 introduced new powers to deal with landlords who commit certain offences under the housing act 2004. Previously, our only option was to prosecute landlord who failed to licence their properties, or failed to comply with an improvement notice (to remedy disrepair), but the new powers give us the option of issuing a financial penalty as an alternative to prosecution. Although the standard of evidence must be the same as if we were going to prosecute, the process itself will be much quicker and simpler to go through, and will save on legal fees.

The level of penalty is up to £30,000 per offence – which is much higher than the fines issued by the Magistrates' Court when prosecutions have been taken. In calculating the amount of the penalty we will take into consideration the level of harm and the culpability of the landlord, then adjust this taking into account any mitigating or aggravating features, then take a final look to ensure that the level of penalty is proportionate and fair. Landlords will have a right to appeal, but any money received as a result of these penalties can be kept by the council and used for housing enforcement purposes.

The housing and planning act also extended the offences for which a rent repayment order may be applied for – this means that either a local authority or a private tenant can claim back the amount of rent paid for up to 12 months previously if a landlord has committed certain offences.

Other new measures introduced in this act, to be implemented in October, include the introduction of banning orders which may ban a person from operating as a landlord after they've committed certain offences, and also a database of 'rogue landlords'.

We are delighted that these new powers have been introduced as they will assist us in dealing with the minority of private landlords who have no interest in complying with regulations or with providing decent accommodation for their tenants.

Prosecution

In April the housing enforcement team took a prosecution against the landlord of a house in multiple occupation as an inspection had brought to light that conditions within the property were so bad as to be dangerous to the tenants. An environmental health officer found that fire precautions were defective (smoke alarms had been removed and fire doors

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tampered with), there was a mouse infestation in the kitchen, a broken cooker and a large accumulation of rubbish in the garden. The landlord, [The name published at the time has been subsequently removed (August 2023) under GDPR request], pleaded guilty to breaching 4 regulations relating to the requirement of landlords to keep their properties in good condition, and one offence of failing to provide information to the council. [The Landlord] was fined a total of £6,665, ordered to pay costs of £1,694 and a victim surcharge of £170.

The implementation of our selective licensing scheme has enabled the team to carry out proactive inspections of privately rented properties, which has meant that we are finding and dealing with far more cases of poor housing conditions than we were previously able to.



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Latest News

Community Safety

Safer Croydon Partnership Community Safety Strategy 2017-21

As chair of the Safer Croydon Partnership I am pleased to be launching a new 3 year Community Safety Strategy for Croydon. The Strategy has been developed following extensive research and consultation so that the Partnership has a full and up to date understanding of both crime trends and public perception. Following the development process the 5 main priorities of the Strategy have been agreed as:

- Reduce the overall crime rate in Croydon; 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; focus on hate crime.

Our priorities respond to and reflect the Mayor of London's new Police and Crime plan.

We are now working together with our partners to review our governance and performance management arrangements structures to ensure that we are focussed on delivering against our ambitious programme of work:

<https://secure.croydon.gov.uk/akscroydon/users/public/admin/kab14.pl?operation=SUBMIT&meet=58&cmte=CAB&grpid=public&arc=1>

Serious Youth Violence

Croydon has seen an increase in serious youth violence, including knife crime in the last few months. The Safer Croydon Partnership has been working together to tackle this issue. An action plan has been developed to focus on enforcement, education and prevention, supporting victims, youth engagement, activities for young people and communications.

Much of this work is already underway. The Metropolitan Police Service Operation Azul, which ran for four weeks, from April led to a 26% reduction in serious youth

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violence, a 26% reduction in knife crime and a 33% reduction in robberies. During this time there were 122 arrests, 320 stop and searches and 40 seizures of knives. Work will continue with further police operations.

Police are also working with the Council and other partners. For example, police colleagues have trained over 150 frontline council staff and contractors to conduct weapon sweeps – to know where to look and how to seize any weapons for evidential purposes. Since February over 150 weapons have been taken off our streets. The Youth Offending Service is developing a schools programme to discuss the issue with young people and Trading Standards routinely test purchasing of knives and regularly secure convictions. Plans to ensure residents know what action is being taken are also being developed.

This work will also support broader work by the council and the Local Strategic Partnership to address the concerns of young people and set a clear strategy for the interests and opportunities of all our young people in the borough. As a result the next Croydon Congress meeting in July will be focused entirely on the interests of the borough's young people.



Public Protection

Trading standards have secured three successful prosecutions involving underage sales (fined £1,000), rogue trading and defrauding a resident (4 years 3 months custodial sentence) and fraudulently taking deposits for privately rented properties when the properties were not actually available to rent (19 months custodial sentence).

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In May 2017 a multi-agency team involving trading standards, food/safety and anti-social behaviour officers as well as neighbourhood safety officers, police, customs and immigration officers carried out visits to retail premises in West Croydon. A number of unsafe cosmetics were seized, an arrest for theft was made and investigation of unsafe working conditions was started.

The pollution team's 24 hour service responded to a significant noise nuisance being caused by a 'rave' and seized a large amount of sound equipment when the DJ failed to reduce the volume.

The food/safety team also took a prosecution against the company Poundworld for 5 food hygiene and 2 health and safety offences, the company have pleaded guilty and the case adjourned for sentencing in the Crown Court in September.

Licensing Policy Review

I have taken the decision to bring forward a review of the Council's Licensing policy a year ahead of the statutory schedule. Since the policy was last drafted licensing issues in Croydon have changed considerably with the closure of a number of premises in the town centre and across the borough and the emergence of a broader range of venues, often more food-led. In addition to these changes, the significant growth and development planned over the coming years and our desire to diversify the borough's cultural offer means that the time is now right to ensure we have a licensing policy fit for the changing borough. We will be engaging with key stakeholders over the next few months before conducting a public consultation on a draft policy in the autumn and aim to have the new policy in place by the end of 2017.

Community & Voluntary Sector

Big Lunches and Great Get Together

The weekend of 16-18 June was set to see another successful year for Big Lunch organisers with over 50 events taking place across Croydon. The Big Lunch brings neighbours and communities together and this year, in memory of Jo Cox MP who was murdered last year, the Big Lunch has teamed up with The Great Get Together being held in her memory – and to highlight the important principle that we have more in common than divides us.

Faiths Together in Croydon are running their annual Interfaith Bike Ride to mark the Great Get Together on Sun 9 July (Please register at: <http://owl.li/R98230cbmqb>)The



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Bike Ride will be followed by a Great Get Together picnic in Park Hill Recreation Ground from 2pm and anyone is welcome for the picnic alone.

As part of the CycleFest Tour Series event, members of the Communities Team braved the downpours and joined the Faiths Together in Croydon Cycle Team to take part in the Mayor's Charity Race and promote the Interfaith Bike Ride.



On Sunday 7th May, the Communities Team supported the 'Gay PDA it's OK' event in North End. This community led event worked to challenge attitudes towards same sex couples' public displays of affection. The Communities Team have worked with local charity, Studio Upstairs based in Park Street, who provide artistic, therapeutic and social support people's emotional and mental health. The team supported the organisation with a successful bid for £60,000 from government funding. The funding will enable them to expand the scope of their mental health and wellbeing activities and build on the great work they've already delivered in Croydon.

Equality & Diversity

Congratulations and huge thanks go to our officers and staff diversity networks who led on the council's submission to the ENEI (Employers Network of Equality and Inclusion) benchmark which assesses organisation on their performance on equality. I am proud to announce that we received 8th place out of 44 organisations. The staff diversity networks and our HR team regularly participate in ENEI events and have recently made submissions for each of the individual networks to be recognised for the magnificent work that they are doing, and their achievements to date.

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The Council is also undertaking accreditation to the Local Government Association's Equalities Framework for Local Government. This process enables the organisation to review its work on equalities and to ensure that the council is tackling inequality and disadvantage within the borough and delivering services in a way that all residents can use. This Council is proud of its achievements and sees this as an opportunity both to highlight great work already taking place across the whole organisation, as well as identifying areas which need to improve.

As with other London boroughs Croydon has a higher proportion of residents from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds than the national average. Croydon also has the highest numbers of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) due to its geographical location, and the largest population of young people in London. As a result it's crucial that community cohesion is at the heart of everything that we do as an organisation, with our partners, and that our decisions are inclusive of our communities.

There is still much more to achieve, and we will continue to strive for greater equality for everyone in Croydon.

Social Security Reform

Universal Credit and its challenges

Residents are continuing to be negatively affected by the changes delivered through universal credit. Arrears for our council tenants and those in emergency temporary accommodation continue to increase. We continue to lobby and challenge the government to make changes to their policy - especially with regard to our more vulnerable customers in emergency accommodation.

Removal of Universal credit for 18 to 21 year olds

Whilst this is a considerable change, to protect vulnerable residents there is a list of exemptions including care leavers, lone parents and people receiving Disability Living Allowance. It is also important to note that any 18-21 year olds already receiving housing benefit (HB) and 'UC live' will not be affected. We are confident that only a very small number of residents will be affected and where that is the case we are working closely with them to reduce the impact on them and find a longer term solution.



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Two child limit

Universal Credit will no longer support additional payments for a third or more children or qualifying young person born on or after 6 April 2017, unless certain exceptions apply. This means that if you have a third child after this date the benefits you will receive will be capped as if you only have two children. We are closely monitoring any changes affecting individual families, offering support where appropriate and working with children's centres and partners in raising awareness of these changes.

If you have any particular questions or issues with regard to current or future reforms please contact our Head of Enablement and Welfare, Asha Vyas: asha.vyas@croydon.gov.uk

Financial Inclusion

We have been striving to achieve the key principles of our financial inclusion strategy by ensuring customers have access to financial services - such as bank accounts and insurance, education and support with budgeting and to plan for the unexpected, empowering residents to make the most of their money through digital services, ensuring access to affordable credit and providing skills and opportunities enter and own their future in employment.

Some of the achievements in 2016/17

- We supported, assessed and helped 30,000 customers with £15 million in benefits, subsistence and discretionary support
- We supported 2,200 residents on Universal Credit with personal budgeting and digital support
- Croydon Council with Go on Croydon has promoted financial resilience and digital inclusion to community groups. 21 digital zones were set up where residents had access to training with basic digital skills

Going forward in 2017/18

We are expanding our work with public health to include healthy eating, smoking cessation and work with the foodhub, activity linking to the excellent public health justbe web site www.justbecroydon.org. There will also be a particular focus on child poverty with concentrated work across our G-atway directorate and early help services. Whilst we continue to promote, review and expand online services,

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information and advice is available including through partner organisations offer support for example through the Croydon Plus, the credit union.



Clean Green Croydon Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Stuart Collins June 2017

Investing in a Cleaner, Greener Croydon

I am delighted to announce some of the new initiative being introduced over the coming months as that this part of this administration's investment of £1.28M in making Croydon a cleaner, greener place to live.

Eighty state of the art litter bins have now been installed in our town centres and other areas of high footfall. These Big Belly Solar Compactors can hold a much greater amount of waste than a normal litter bin as once inside, the litter is compressed down to a maximum of eight times its original size, meaning the bins have to be emptied far less often. Once the bins are approaching full, these bins send a message to the contractor to come and empty them. This ensures bins are only emptied when they need to be, and frees up Veolia's staff to focus on other important work such as the removal of flytipping, which is currently being cleared at 85% in 48 hours.



The standard of street cleansing will also be greatly improved by fifty new 'green machine' vacuums that will transform the way the street sweepers keep our Borough clean . These 100% battery powered machines suck up any litter in their path and will make it easy for the street sweepers to tackle difficult to reach areas like between cars, as well as well as the back lines and channels of the road. These machines are in addition to the four mechanical sweepers already purchased which have already made a big improvement to the street cleansing regime. I will be running a competition with local residents in each of the fifty locations, to name their vacuums.



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Clean Green Croydon Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Stuart Collins June 2017

An anti-litter initiative is being launched in town centres as part of the Don't Mess with Croydon campaign. Vibrant banners will be displayed from lamp columns informing residents that littering will not be tolerated in Croydon. There will also be green footprints stencilled into the pavements showing the way to the new bins. This anti-littering message will be backed up by a rigorous programme of enforcement with a zero tolerance message to littering and flytipping.

We have also invested in the purchase of two brand new refuse collection vehicles and three caged vehicles which will be dedicated to the proactive removal of fly-tips in the Borough. Last month we cleared 84% of all fly tips within 48 hours of being reported, and these new vehicles will help increase that figure even further.



Fly Tip Team Update

The Council's recently formed Fly tip Task force which has been active since April 2017 has been busy in the borough focussing on areas identified from intelligence and proactive working with other services and stakeholders. The team has recently been active in the Selhurst Ward where initial activity in the first week of April elicited 11 Fixed Penalty Notices and more recently where they undertook a successful night time operation between the 19th and 20th May 2017. As a consequence of this activity they issued 33 Fixed Penalty Notices to suspected offenders.

The team moved on to Bensham Manor Ward where they commenced a similar operation commencing the week of the 22nd May 2017.

The Council has recently introduced £400 Fixed Penalty Notices for Flytipping offences under new legislative direction. They are used primarily as a punitive option for the more complex and serious incidents of flytipping as an alternative to prosecution. To date we have issued 7 of these FPN's all of which have been acknowledged and paid in full.

Since April 2016 to the end of May 2017, the Council's borough wide Enforcement Teams have issued a total of 973 FPN'S for flytipping and littering offences" broken down as follows Litter -538 and Fly tip - 435.

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

LATEST NEWS

Care partnership for older people launches in Croydon

Health, social care and voluntary sector partners are launching a more personalised and joined-up approach to health and care services for the over-65s in Croydon.

The Outcomes-Based Commissioning programme (OBC) is a radically different approach to the funding and delivery of services designed to get the best value out of the health and care sectors in Croydon, whilst delivering the outcomes local people want.



The new way of working is as a result of an alliance agreement signed just before Easter by six organisations in the borough – Croydon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Croydon Council, Croydon GP Collaborative, Croydon Health Services NHS Trust, the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust, and Age UK Croydon.

The partnership means a single joined-up service for people over 65 needing health and social care support, from help with leading a healthier lifestyle through to avoiding unnecessary hospital stays and supporting people in their own homes and community.

The main principle is to move towards funding people's care based on the delivery of successful outcomes, helping them to live more independent and active lives for as long as possible.

The launch follows engagement with the local over-65 community during which they identified those things that mattered most to them, from staying independent to receiving tailored support.

If we can provide more effective support in people's own home, it has a positive knock-on effect for both the individual and the wider health and social care service. Joint working between council staff, NHS and Age UK Croydon colleagues will mean better care for Croydon's over-65s, giving them greater independence to manage their health and wellbeing, and to avoid unnecessary hospital visits.

Contact Officer: Rachel.soni@croydon.gov.uk

Croydon Choice is live

The new Croydon Choice system, which went live on Monday 22 May, is a new way of allocating social housing properties in the borough, giving those on the housing waiting list more choice and making the process more open and transparent.

As before, families and individuals who are eligible for the housing register will have their housing needs assessed and they will be placed in a band according to circumstances. Banding is the method by which the council prioritises applications for housing.

But instead of the council contacting applicants when a suitable home becomes available, the properties will be advertised on the Croydon Choice website www.croydonchoice.org.uk as soon as they become available. Applicants can then choose which ones they are interested in, from those that they are eligible for and tell the council which properties they are interested in by expressing an interest or 'bidding'. They can do this through the website or mobile app.

Properties are open to bidding for a minimum for three days, with the closing dates clearly labelled on each advert. Those with the highest priority will be given first consideration

Contact Officer - Kirsty.jenkins@croydon.gov.uk

Croydon Shared Lives ranked 7th

Congratulations! Croydon Shared Lives is independently ranked amongst the top 0.9% of social care organisations, which are consistently rated outstanding across all the key questions in England by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). Remarkably, these top social organisations accounted for 82% of the overall outstanding CQC ratings throughout England. Croydon Shared Lives was **ranked 7th** by Cambridge-based Health and Social Partnerships in their publication: *Which Health and Social Care location? Rankings of Regulated Health and Social Care organisations in England*"

The League Table of Care Agencies and Care Homes responds to citizens' demand for access to the data, information and knowledge they need to assess the quality of health and social care that is available to them. It uses the largest ever CQC dataset analysed during the year to November 2016 to produce a league table of Health and Social Care locations ranked on the basis of their CQC rating: Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement and Inadequate. As such, it builds on CQC own individual location quality ratings to establish a relative choice scale for users to compare health and social care locations when choosing providers.

Contact Officer: caroline.baxter@croydon.gov.uk

Community Connect Programme

Community Connect is an exciting initiative delivered by The Family Centre in Fieldway, New Addington, supported by the Council's Gateway Directorate. It aims to provide housing financial stability and homelessness prevention support for our most vulnerable residents in the New Addington and Fieldway communities.

AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON

The borough's first ever FareShare Local Collection Point is being set up as part of Community Connect's Community Food Club work stream. FareShare is a charity that saves good food destined for waste and sends it to charities and community groups who transform it into nutritious meals for vulnerable people.

The next stage of the Community Food Club work stream development will see volunteering opportunities being opened up to local people to help deliver this exciting initiative. The criteria for resident membership of the 'pantry' will prioritise membership based on those most in need such as residents being affected by welfare reform. Members will also benefit from a range of volunteering opportunities that will provide valuable employability skills and experience such as stock control experience, retail skills or confidence building to help them gain employment.

Contact Officer: mark.fowler@croydon.gov.uk

Sentab

Sentab is an easy-to-use social and communication platform which runs on any HDMI-enabled TV. It allows you to make video-calls, meet new people, share photos, play games and find out what activities/social events are happening in the locality; essentially linking people to local community, family, friends, professionals and services and improving residents' social exposure in later life.

Key elements include:

- Home visits will be reduced and 'virtual visits' increased to maximise engagement rates as well as resources
- Increasing digital awareness and skills to combat social isolation
- Ensuring residents have access to the growing number of services/products/information/support available in their local communities. Whether it is making new friends, exploring personal interests or keeping in touch with people or services, our ambition is that no-one in Croydon is left behind
- Befriending volunteering opportunities where people will engage with service users via the Sentab platform

Contact Officer: mark.fowler@croydon.gov.uk

Brief and Extended Mental Health and Wellbeing Interventions

Croydon Public Health team were successful in securing 2 places on the Connect 5 pilot training that was offered by Public Health England London and Health Education England earlier this year, and will now be working with these organisations in a London wide pilot of the programme.

Supported and endorsed by the Royal Society of Public Health, the programme aims to increase access to support for people with low level mental health problems, and also to increase the health and wellbeing of these individuals, enabling them with the knowledge and skills in self-management and care of their own mental wellbeing. The training programme will also empower council staff to identify individuals whose

mental wellbeing may be suffering, as early as possible, and provide brief intervention and signposting into services at the first possible opportunity.

Croydon Public Health team have started to deliver the Connect 5 training programme to Croydon Council frontline staff groups, and initial feedback from the first pilot sessions run in Croydon has been positive. The team will be working with colleagues who attend the training to tailor the programme so that it best meets the needs of and demands on Croydon's frontline staff groups.

Contact Officer: Claire.mundle@croydon.gov.uk

DELIVERING OUR AMBITIONS

Adult Social Care Transformation and Improvement

The first phase of the ASC transformation has been completed with a number of developments completed including:

- Work on a number of initiatives to improve our offer for residents living with a disability or caring for someone with a disability
- Improved working practices as part of our commitment to constantly improve the way that we operate.
- Ensuring officers have all the tools they need to perform their jobs through the transformation and improvement work to the best of their abilities.

Phase 2 of the ASC development and reform is now underway completing:

- Review of the current transformation programme (Phase One)
- Aligning wider project areas in health / other council divisions (Children's Services/ Housing / Corporate) to the activity required over the next 6 months (Phase Two)
- Single view of the programme developed
- Clear roles and responsibilities for delivery in place
- Focussed activity to achieve best outcomes for people requiring support and statutory service provision that is to standard and within the financial envelope provided.

Contact Officer: Pratima.solanki@croydon.gov.uk

Numbers over 6 weeks in shared accommodation

The numbers of families over 6 weeks in shared accommodation continues to reduce and now stands at 28. This is from a high of 168 in September 2016 and is a reflection of the excellent work that the gateway service is doing in reducing the demand on the homelessness service while finding longer term sustainable solutions for households.

The numbers of households over 6 weeks has been in problem area for the council for over 5 years and only once in that time, in September 2014, have we been below the figure of 28. This is against a backdrop of other local authorities in London reporting both an increase in homelessness demand and higher numbers of cases over 6 weeks.

Contact Officer: mark.fowler@croydon.gov.uk

Support Planning with My Support Broker

We are developing a new approach for our customers with social care needs by implementing personalised care and support planning. This prototype approach aims to deliver on the Care Act principle of wellbeing by providing more opportunity for personalised care for people over their care support and how it is delivered.

Within Croydon this care and support planning function will be delivered by a new in house team of support brokers; brokers will support people with social care needs to develop creative person focussed support plans that lead to better outcomes for their lives. Support brokers will build on the assessments completed by social workers to plan with people how their needs might be met using a range of available resources including natural supports from within their community.

We are working with My Support Broker an external organisation to develop the service. My Support Broker provide an online cloud based software system that processes referrals and is used to develop support plans. The company also provide certified accredited support planning training, for our newly appointed brokers.

Contact Officer: james.burgess1@croydon.gov.uk

Carers Week 12 - 18 June 2017: our biggest yet!

Carers Week took place 12-18 June and was our biggest yet.

Highlights included:

- Relaxing massage, dance, henna hand painting and therapeutic art sessions
- Vintage afternoon tea at the Carers Café
- 'Meet a professional' drop-ins
- Find out about local carer support and health services
- Opportunity to have your say on the Croydon Carers Strategy
- Annual Carers' Information Day
- And much, much more!

Contact Officer: james.burgess1@croydon.gov.uk

Let's all be a Dementia Friend

Croydon Council and our colleagues at the Clinical Commissioning Group supported this year's Dementia Awareness Week, between 14 and 20 May, by asking residents and their employees to sign-up to the Dementia Friends initiative at www.dementiafriends.org.uk

We wanted to help spread the message to those affected by dementia that help and support are nearby if they need it. Becoming a Dementia Friend simply means finding out more about how the condition affects a person and then helping them with those small, everyday tasks. For example, being patient in a shop queue, or spending time with someone you know who is living with dementia.

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The Alzheimer's Society charity organises the annual Dementia Awareness Week and this year it was also supported by lots of celebrities including comedian Jo Brand, Olympic champion James Cracknell, actress Meera Syal and former footballer Robbie Savage.

It's not too late to become a Dementia Friend and residents can join anytime of the year via the website above. I would also like to remind you that if you are aged between 40 and 74 you could be entitled to a Free NHS Health Check. This can detect the early signs of a range of problems, such as heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure and dementia. Getting treatment early can help to better manage these and other problems.

Contact Officer: Rachel.flowers@croydon.gov.uk

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

Local volunteers get our 8th floor garden areas looking great again

A group of volunteers with Learning difficulties, with support from our autism and learning difficulty Adult Support services which are a part of the all age disability Service, have begun a summer-long gardening project to improve and maintain the planting in the outside seating areas on the 8th floor of BWH.

The volunteers have replanted the areas with a variety of shrubs, perennials, herbs, grasses and summer bedding- ensuring the space is a rich tapestry of texture, colour and scent. They were kindly looked after by the Go Fresh happy café team, who kept them topped up with fresh tea and coffee. Materials were supplied by the Cherry Orchard Garden Centre, which provides gardening work experience support to individuals with learning difficulties. The team will be on-site once a week, maintaining the space across the summer until October.



Contact Officer: caroline.baxter@croydon.gov.uk

Council in new partnership to help homeless workers

Croydon Council has teamed up with a not-for-profit organisation to introduce a new kind of accommodation aimed at encouraging more homeless adults out of hostels and into work and independent living.

Eight homeless men have moved from local hostels into a shared house in central Croydon that offers cheaper rent and greater independence as they move back into work. Another five tenants are set to move in by 5 May, taking the total to 13. If successful, the council will explore similar arrangements with third-sector partners to help more homeless men and women.

Set up by Croydon Council's Gateway service that helps homeless people or those at risk of homelessness, the partnership with Causeway Irish Housing Association (CIHA) aims to give hostel residents an extra incentive to get a job – and ultimately a council property – while also freeing up much-needed spaces in supported accommodation. The project also aims to reduce the expense of hostels, which include council-run specialist one-to-one support.

The 13 people, aged 25-55 and working in sectors from construction to retail, were chosen because they met the council's project criteria of having a job, no rent arrears and modelling good behaviour. If they still have a job after six months and get on well with their flatmates, the tenants will be eligible for a council flat.

Contact Officer: Mark.fowler@croydon.gov.uk



Culture, Leisure and Sport

Cabinet Member Bulletin

Councillor Timothy Godfrey

June 2017

Latest News

Parks Masterplanning pilot

Tyréns UK, a design led sustainable landscape, urban design, transport and environment practise, were appointed earlier this year to develop six masterplans for parks across the borough. The parks, Norbury Park, Lloyd Park, South Norwood Lake, Park Hill Recreation Ground, Ashburton Park and Happy Valley were chosen as destination venues with facilities, issues and opportunities found in many other parks and will be pilots for developing sustainable activities in other parks and open spaces.

The project's aims are to investigate measures to help Croydon's residents access all the potential health & wellbeing benefits (including social, environmental and biodiversity benefits) offered by parks. At the same time, to explore how new revenue streams and voluntary sector activity can support sustainable park maintenance in the context of significant population growth, and diminishing public sector resources in the Borough.

Events will be held in the six parks throughout the summer when residents can look at preliminary ideas, and recommend changes or add support before the plans are finalised. Posters with the dates will be displayed at the parks and will be available on the council web site <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/leisure/parksandopenspaces/get-involved-in-parks-and-open-spaces/volunteering-opportunities-in-parks>

Ambitious for Parks- small community grants

Community Involvement is one key aspect of the 'Ambitious for Parks' programme underway in Croydon. To support this, the £40,000 Ambitious for parks grant fund was established, making available grants of up to £4,000 per project to local not for profit organisations.

Local groups have had the opportunity to apply for funding to improve, develop and encourage community activity within some of the 127 green open spaces managed by Croydon Council. These range from recreation grounds, formally laid out parks and community gardens to ancient woodlands, nature reserves, and allotments.

Projects were required to meet at least one of the four themes from the Ambitious for Parks programme: Get Active, Get involved, Support and learn about nature, Exciting days out

Applications have been received from a wide variety of people including community groups, sports clubs and nature conservation groups. The proposed projects include imaginative ideas for activities in parks and green spaces across the Borough. A panel is now assessing the applications and the successful project organisers will be informed in June. A full list of successful projects will be



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published on the grant fund web page.

<https://www.croydon.gov.uk/leisure/parksandopenspaces/ambitious-for-parks-grant-fund>

Pickleball goes live in Wandle Park

In partnership with the council, Wandle Valley Trust and South London Area Pickleball (SLAP) members, four taster sessions were held over four weeks in Waddon Leisure centre to introduce and build up interest in the “fastest growing sport in America”. During that time SLAP members painted two Pickleball courts on the tennis court in Wandle Park (and at Purley Beeches courts) so that we could introduce the game to the park to be played outdoors in the seasonal, better weather.



The Mayor Wayne Trakas-Lawlor came for what would be one of his last official engagements to the launch on Saturday 13th May and joined in and cut the official Wandle Park Pickleball cake. Everyone had a game and a slice. We now have a SLAP coach in the park volunteering on Friday and Saturday mornings for a couple of hours to help get the sport established.



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Wandle Park water fountain makes a re-appearance



The water fountain was restored rather timely in the park and a few days before the Green Flag judges visit on the 18th May.

It was good to be able to proudly bring it to the attention of the judges, rather than see the stump that was there before.

Now when joggers go round the park they stop for a quick refresh and carry on their way.

The Just Live Well service

The JustBe website, which is part of the Live Well Croydon programme, has now been up and running for almost five months and has had over 4700 visits with in excess of 650 people taking the Health MOT.

Since launching the Just Live Well face to face behaviour change service in April, the number of people on the programme is steadily rising and with GPs, pharmacies and Croydon Hospital starting to deliver the programme in June, we expect greater numbers coming through in the next few months. The Live Well Healthy Living Hub is now up and running and is a key base for the Live Well Advisors who are now delivering the face to face appointments with clients engaged on the Just Live Well behaviour change journey. Additional 'drop ins' hub sites across Croydon have been set up to provide digital 'know how' to residents on accessing the Just Be health MOT and provide information and support for anyone wanting to know more about the Live Well service.

Sanderstead Recreation Ground Pavilion Regeneration

The former bowls pavilion at Sanderstead Recreation Ground has been transformed into a new children's nursery 'Sanderstead Park Nursery'. The pavilion has been completely refurbished and is due to be inspected by Ofsted before it can open.

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The parks development officer met with the Metropolitan Police Designing out Crime Officer earlier this year. The main recommendation from the police was to remove the steel container in the compound behind the nursery which vandals were using to access the roof. After much negotiation and an amount of building work, the container was gifted to a local contractor who removed the container free of charge. The former occupiers Selsdon Little Leagues were granted a licence for storage within two rooms of the pavilion.

The cricket club have also been granted a licence to use the garage for storage of grounds maintenance machinery. The club have painted the exterior of the pavilion (changing rooms) to improve the appearance of the pavilion to bring it up to the standard of the nursery.

The regeneration of the centre of the park has seen a fall in crime rates and the Police have suggested it should be nominated for an Award.

For further information please contact Alison Plant, Parks Development Officer xtn. 61901.

Norbury Park – BMX pump track

A pre-contract meeting was held with Clark & Kent, the contractors delivering the BMX project at Norbury Park, and the programme has now been agreed. Clark & Kent have worldwide reputation as one of the world's leading cycle track builders, designers and suppliers.

Work is due to start on Monday 3rd July and is expected to complete within 9 weeks. The main point of access will be via Harefield Road, off Green Lane and the contractor will be responsible for keeping the site secure. The track construction will be followed by the installation of a meter high weldmesh fence around the riding area.

The Sports Development Officer will be setting up a BMX club funded by the charity Access Sport which will operate out of the Park pavilion alongside Croydon Amateur boxing club. New seats, litter bins, cycle parking and access paths will be installed alongside the new track.



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The track will be opened to the public in August 2017. For further information please contact Alison Plant, Parks Development Officer xtn. 61901.

Croydon Outdoor Explorer Network hosts another successful Open Day

The Network was launched 4 years ago. This was the 4th annual open day and attracted again around 500 people, mostly families, which took part in a range of outdoor activities at Pinewood.

Over 70 children were on the water kayaking, 100 children and adults scaled the climbing wall, 48 youngsters tried out archery and lots more engaged in story-telling, friction fire-lighting, stick whittling, campfire cooking, going on a treasure hunt, yoga, making magic wands and more.

The aim of the event is to promote outdoor activity in Croydon Parks, getting out into nature and foster quality family time outdoors. The event is a successful partnership between the Croydon Outdoor Explorer Network –which is an umbrella group for outdoor practitioners, forest school and nature play providers in the borough – and Croydon District Scouts.

With the ever increasing demand to promote physical activity and mental well-being amongst children, outdoor activities plays a key role, and partnership events such as this help us achieve our aim to engage more people in parks.

The Croydon Outdoor Explorer Network and the annual open day are run and managed by Meike Weiser, Community Partnership Officer in Parks/District Centre & Regeneration, ext 64952

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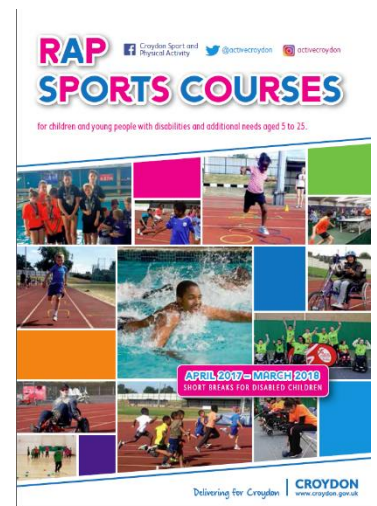
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RAP Scheme for children & young adults with disabilities & additional needs

Funding has been secured to continue the RAP scheme for another year and the new brochure was launched in April. This year, working in partnership with other organisations, some new sessions have been introduced including inclusive golf (community golf), inclusive street dance (SLIDE dance), badminton, table tennis and indoor football.

Last year, the RAP scheme delivered 517 hours of activity and attracted 2817 attendances. The scheme continues to grow in popularity and provides much needed respite to parents and carers in Croydon.



For updates on sport and physical activity in Croydon, please follow our social media accounts:



Croydon Sport and Activity



@activecroydon



activecroydon



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Virgin Money Giving London Mini Marathon

Croydon once again fielded a full team of 36 young athletes aged 11-17 years to represent the borough at the Virgin Money Giving London Mini Marathon. The event which took place on Sunday 23rd April sees thousands of young people from all London Boroughs and regional counties run the last 3 miles of the London Marathon route.

Results were as follows:

| Team | Team Place (London Borough Challenge) | Highest Individual Place |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Under 13 Boys | 4 th | 11 th |
| Under 15 Boys | 6 th | 6 th |
| Under 17 Boys | 13 th | 52 nd |
| Under 13 Girls | 14 th | 56 th |
| Under 15 Girls | 15 th | 17 th |
| Under 17 Girls | 10 th | 35 th |



For updates on sport and physical activity in Croydon, please follow our social media accounts:



Croydon Sport and Activity



@activecroydon



activecroydon

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London Youth Games Update

The summer season has begun with #TeamCroydon off to a flying start having qualified for the finals in both Tennis and Basketball Boys. Other results have produced top 5 finishes in ParaGames Football Boys (2nd), Angling (3rd), Trampolining (4th), Basketball Girls (5th), ParaGames Football Girls (5th) and Boccia (5th).

Individual highlights included an individual gold in angling and trampolining.



Croydon are currently lying in 7th position but these results are very positive and put Croydon in a strong position leading up to the finals weekend on the 8th and 9th July.



For updates on sport and physical activity in Croydon, please follow our social media accounts:



Croydon Sport and Activity



@activecroydon



activecroydon

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South Norwood Lake playground

The parks team have been working with Lakes Playground Action Group (LPAG) for several years to improve the play facilities at South Norwood Lake. The group have raised £100,000 and work started on site in April. Work is coming to an end and the playground will officially reopen on Saturday 10th June at 2.00pm. LPAG have arranged an afternoon of activities to celebrate the event.

LPAG have secured all the funding for the project which will come from:-

- London Marathon Charitable Trust £19,999
- Veolia £39,500
- S106 £23,000
- LPAG £5,500 – Various fundraising activities

The playground is for toddlers through to young teenagers and is PiPA accredited for its inclusive play facilities. The playground will offer traditional swings and slides as well as a roundabout, climbing structures, spring toys and an aerial runway. There will be benches and picnic tables for parents and friends to relax and watch the activity.





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Culture

We have had further success with our Cultural Partnership Fund with more of our Croydon cultural organisations bringing arts council funding into the Borough. Small scale theatre, festivals and local musicians have all benefitted in the last two months.

Croydon has also been successful as part of a 3 borough bid for Arts Council funds. Led by Remarkable Productions who stage the London Mela, the funds will support an event in Wandle Park at the end of September – the Croydon International Mela. More detail to follow on what will be a great new event for Croydon.

The work to increase the capacity of the Braithwaite Hall is nearing completion and Croydon Clocktower also saw the first of what will be a monthly music promotion by the Oval Tavern with the Trans Siberian March Band playing there last month.

There has already been quite a bit of media coverage on the appointment of BHLive as the operators for the Fairfield Halls. We look forward to working with such an appropriate and credible operator in Croydon.

Museums

Two new exhibitions, celebrating the history of the Fairfield Halls, opened at Croydon Clocktower in May.

'The Fairfield Collection', explores the history of the venue and its significance in Croydon's cultural life. Using objects removed from the venue prior to its £30 million refurbishment and the stories of the people who worked, performed and visited the venue, the exhibition provides an insight into the cultural life of the borough and the importance of the venue to its local community. 'The Fairfield Collection' exhibition is on display in the Museum of Croydon's Croydon NOW Gallery, until November 2017.

'The art of Fairfield', which is on display in the Exhibition Gallery, showcases artwork previously displayed in the venue. Featuring local artist Norman Partridge's paintings of Croydon theatres, as well as works by Ken A. Head, depicting the Halls, and Anne Murray's watercolour sketches of musicians from the London Mozart Players, the exhibition aims to showcase these works in a new light and to a new audience.

Both exhibitions have been produced as part of a partnership project which saw the Museum of Croydon working with FAB Croydon and their volunteers, many of whom were former stewards at the Halls. The project and exhibitions were supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and celebratory event marking the end of the project will take place at Croydon Clocktower on 23 June.



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The Museum of Croydon again supported Croydon Art Society's spring exhibition at Croydon Clocktower, which was exhibited in the Exhibition Gallery and the new Croydon Clocktower court gallery space. A programme of exhibitions celebrating the cultural diversity of the borough and community priorities has now been planned from July 2017. Highlights to look out for include PrideFest 2017, a crowd sourced exhibition showcasing culture in Croydon, our Youth Arts Collective's 'Takeover' and Croydon Art Society's Annual Show.

During 2016-17, audiences visiting the Museum of Croydon again grew by 5%, boosted by the success of exhibitions such as 'The Petherick family album' and 'Bones of Croydon', which features an almost complete Anglo-Saxon skeleton on display in the Riesco Gallery for the first time since its discovery in Purley in 2014.

Future projects include the Museum of Croydon working with Subrang Arts to deliver another major exhibition supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, 'Gujarati Yatra: journey of a people', which will bring new audiences and music and dance performances back to Croydon Clocktower for the autumn season 2017.

Working Together

Registrars Service

Citizenship Ceremonies:

Trials of fortnightly ceremonies in the Braithwaite Hall are progressing well and have been positively received by those attending. We will continue to monitor the success of this event and venue over coming months.

National Citizenship Checking Process.

The service has been experiencing a non-attendance rate of 20% for these appointments. Non-attendance is only identified when individuals do not arrive for their booked appointment, one of the reasons for this is that they may have been able to secure an earlier appointment at another Register Office. This obviously has a detrimental impact upon the deployment of resources and income for the service. To reduce these instances a non-refundable deposit is now charged at the time of booking. It is believed that both these instances and waiting time will reduce significantly. We will be monitoring this service over the coming months to evaluate the success of the new process.

Bereavement Services

Dying Matters Week



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Dying Matters is a coalition of 32,000 members across England and Wales which aims to help people talk more openly about dying, death and bereavement, and to make plans for the end of life.

Every year in May, Dying Matters and their coalition members host an Awareness Week, which provides an unparalleled opportunity to place the importance of talking about dying, death and bereavement firmly on the national agenda.

This year, following a visit from St Christopher's Hospice staff to the Crematorium we received an invite to participate with other related organisations in the 'Dying Matters Week' event held on 9th May at Scratchley Hall Thornton Heath. The event was attended by Paul Barker Crematorium Manager and Polly Reynold, Bereavement Advisor – Paul also gave a presentation on the service we provide and our annual events with a view to dispelling the popular myths surrounding burial and cremation.

The event was well received and very worthwhile. This is an event we now wish to participate in on an annual basis in addition to strengthening our relationship with St Christopher's.

Recycling of Cremation Metals

Croydon Crematorium participates in a national scheme where metals from the cremation process are recycled. These metals include staples used in the construction of the coffin, plates and screws used to repair severely broken bones, artificial joints etc.

Permission for this recycling to occur is given by families on the paperwork relating to cremation of the deceased. Following the cremation process the metals are removed prior to the remains being cremulated into ashes. The metals are then stored in secure containers and are collected every 6 months for recycling by a Dutch company called Ortho Metals. Currently there are over 200 crematoria in the UK participating in this scheme. Any surplus monies remaining after operating and administration costs are removed are available for participating Crematoria to bid for on behalf of local bereavement related charities. During the most recent round Bereavement Services nominated St Christopher's Hospice in Sydenham, to whom we were proud to recently present a cheque for £5000.00.



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Nominations for the next donation are required over the summer, if you can think of a worthy bereavement related charity please e-mail the details to myself and Paul Barker Crematorium Manager for consideration.

Delivering our Ambitions

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

This was a great success, see below a copy of a feedback form received.

write or draw your favourite thing about the concert:

Amazing, Mindblowing. The Best I ever seen.
The music and the act.

Thanks to a project developed by the Council, our library team, London Mozart Players and Nouvague - two concerts were run on the 1st June in our newly refurbished children's library. Over 300 hundred children and their families attended the two concerts.

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Did this event make you want to visit the library more often?

yes yes Yes yes!!! No

Prefer not to say

Did this event make you want to attend more concerts?

yes yes Yes yes!!! No

Prefer not to say

This is an exciting use of this new children's library space and is a great example of how libraries are being encouraged to develop new activities that support wider community involvement and help achieve our vision that libraries inform, involve and inspire more of our residents.

More events are being planned and Midsummer Night's Dream and Willy Wonka might be visiting in the autumn.

Working Together

June is our 'make a noise' in libraries month and as part of this Croydon Music & Arts – who are celebrating their 50th anniversary - are running performances of young musicians 7 – 11 years in nearly all our libraries. Watch young beginners perform and see what instrument your child could learn with Croydon Music & Arts. See the libraries and Council websites for details.

Plans are also currently being developed with the BRIT School to bring youth theatre to our libraries. So many young people never experience live performance and this partnership brings the opportunity to get in on the act, be involved in the delivery and also provide a new range of venues for the BRIT students to hone their skills.



Finance and Treasury

Cabinet Member Bulletin

Councillor Simon Hall

June 2017

16/17 Outturn

The draft accounts for the year to 31 March 2017 have been prepared.

These show that a surplus of £0.050m. has been achieved on the General Fund. This is an excellent result, given the huge pressures on the Council's finances from cuts to our funding from Central Government, additional burdens on services due to Central Government decision and substantial demographic pressures.

The accounts also show a surplus of £0.737m. was achieved on the Housing Revenue Account.

The Collection Fund now shows an overall surplus of £12.190m, of which Croydon's share is a surplus of £7.289m. Croydon's share is comprised of a Council Tax surplus of £5.747m and a Business Rates surplus of £1.542m. This is thanks to the growth in the tax base, thanks to the growth in our borough and, above all, thanks to the record high collection rates achieved in the last year, 96.85% for Council Tax and 99.1% for National Non-Domestic Business Rates.

The Council recorded £137.3m. of capital spend, representing the delivery of key programmes, not least the schools programme and improvements to our council housing stock.

The latest valuation of the Pension Fund as at 31 March 2017 has reached £1,092m., a 7% rise in the last quarter and a 25% rise in the last year. Substantial progress has been made on implementing the strategic asset allocation set two years ago. All of this does show the impact of having the revised investment strategy and the positive and proactive management of the fund.

I want to pay tribute to all the staff who have worked so hard to deliver this.

All of this excellent financial management has not been delivered by chance, but is thanks to the clear joined-up policies and leadership of this Labour administration. This contrasts to the chaos of the previous administration.



17/20 Budget Implementation

We are continuing to have excellent financial management, against the backdrop of continued cuts to funding, continued increase in demand for services and uncertainty over Government policy, with:

- Reviews of savings options
- Implementation of ambitious and innovative initiatives to deliver on residents' priorities, including genuine win-wins, such as Think Family and the extension of Gateway
- A focus on constantly improving value for money
- A willingness to look at new initiatives,
- The lobbying of Government in the interests of residents
- Borrowing for a purpose
- Reviews of all risks, including development of contingency plans

In all of this, we continue to deliver our Ambitions for Croydon.

Elections

The Electoral Services Department responded to the snap general election, ensuring that the people of this borough were able to take part in the democratic process.

These elections saw Labour's Steve Reed OBE re-elected in Croydon North with a massively increased majority of 32,365, as was the Conservative Chris Philp in Croydon South with a reduced majority of 11,406. In Croydon Central, Labour's Sarah Jones was elected, with a majority of 5,652 over the outgoing Conservative MP.

Indeed, it was excellent to see that a record number of people voted, with nearly 178,000 votes being cast (8.4% up on 2015). Of these, 54% were cast for the three Labour candidates and 39% for the three Conservative candidates.

Contracts and Commissioning

We are continuing to strengthen our contract management and looking how we can ensure that this delivers improved services, better value for money and added value, including social value and local employment.

In terms of commissioning, we have notably achieved the following:

- Signing of the Alliance Agreement for the Outcome Based Commissioning for Over 65s, which will ensure that we will be providing improved services including a focus on prevention
- Going out to tender on a new concession arrangement for our Leisure Services



Transport and Environment Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Stuart King June 2017

Latest News

Croydon's CycleFest Undeterred by the Weather

Croydon's first Cycle Fest kept smiles on many faces despite the heavy rain that came in earlier than forecasters had predicted.

The bad weather stayed away long enough for the school races to finish, with instructors from Bikeability on hand to help young riders learn more about competitive cycling techniques.

Around the town the early-afternoon crowds were kept entertained by a cycling pianist and a whacky troupe of bicycle ballet performers. Meanwhile youngsters pitted themselves against the clock on the extreme-sprint Rollapaluza challenge.

In The Queen's Gardens DJs and live bands raised the tempo for the day, and around the circuit there were plenty of stalls and demonstrations on hand showcasing new cycle products or giving advice on maintenance or security.

Charity races in the middle of the afternoon started to take the brunt of the rain, but, undaunted, riders took to the circuit to enjoy the experience and raise money for worthy causes. The Willmot-Dixon team emerged victorious in a close-fought contest.

Mayor of Croydon, Councillor Wayne Trakas-Lawlor, said: "Regardless of the rain everyone had a brilliant time. The racing was of the highest level and during the day there was a great mix of activities all designed to help get people on their bikes more in the future."

Those spectators who braved the elements after work were treated to some exceptional professional racing as The Tour reached its half-way point for the current series.



AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON



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West Croydon Bus Station Wins Top Architectural Award

Transport for London has won two of the Capital's most prestigious architecture awards for a new state-of-the-art building. West Croydon Bus station may be one of TfL's smaller infrastructure projects but it was significant enough for the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) to give it first place over hundreds of other entrants.

The bus station, a key transport interchange for the borough of Croydon, won the RIBA London Award 2017. The project was designed and project managed by TfL's in-house teams. Crucially, it also picked up the RIBA London Project Architect of the Year Award 2017, for TfL's Martin Eriksson. The judges said the new bus station was: "a charming and creative building, made possible by a young and ambitious client representative and in-house architect team." The judges went on to observe: "It is a first building in what the jury hopes will be a continuing programme to improve the quality of bus stations across London" and "the project made a brilliant case for the value of beautiful design and aesthetics on even small-scale transport infrastructure, and for projects that are fully achievable under budget with the right leadership and vision". The judges also added how: "the delight of people using the bus station was evident". TfL project lead Adam Edwards said: "Given the competition and prestige this is a fantastic achievement that recognises the importance of buses, and the infrastructure that supports them, in keeping London moving. There were hundreds of entries for the London awards, which were whittled down to 84 finalists across five London regions. West Croydon won the south east region award and Martin's award was pan-London."

The project also received a highly commended award in the infrastructure category at the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors in the same week. The new building replaces one from 1985 and reflects the need for more considered, sustainable transport infrastructure in the Capital as London has grown. It serves around seven million passengers and 25 different routes, with some 150 buses an hour stopping there. The bus station design was planned carefully by TfL working with Croydon Council to align with the West Croydon Masterplan and surrounding public realm improvements.

Blue Badge Prosecution

A parking Civil Enforcement Officer was on patrol in Fell Road near the Council's offices on September 27 2016. She noticed a Ford Capri displaying a disabled blue badge and called the office for a check to be done on the badge. The check revealed that the badge holder had died a year earlier so a penalty charge notice was issued and the details passed to internal fraud who help parking services investigate blue badge misuse.

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Mr. Chris Mason was trying to get free parking by using his dead mother's blue badge heartlessly said she was "alive and sat home on the sofa" when challenged in order to get a space when he went to plea for a new council home,

He went to the offices in the hope of being rehoused by the council after he had been evicted from his previous home for failing to pay rent.

Mason, from Beech House Road, brazenly did the same thing again when he returned to the council offices in October 2016, this time displaying the blue badge in the BMW he was driving.

Council officers approached Mason about the death of his mother and he shamelessly responded that it was "news to him" and that she was "at home, sitting on the sofa".

After failing to appear before Croydon Magistrates' Court on 2 May 2017 Mason was convicted in his absence.

He was fined £500, and ordered to pay £325 costs and £50 victim surcharge.

In addition to failing to attend his court hearing, Mason failed to respond to two invitations to interviews with officers.

Delivering our Ambitions

Air Quality Summit

This administration is determined to take meaningful action to tackle poor air quality in our borough. As part of the consultation on our draft Air Quality Action Plan, the council is hosting an Air Quality Summit later this month to look at actions that can be taken to tackle air pollution in our borough.

The Air Quality Summit will take place from 1pm on Monday 26 June at Croydon Conference Centre, Surrey Street. Places are limited but open to all, so anybody wishing to attend should book at www.eventbrite.com/e/air-quality-summit-tickets-35175268174.



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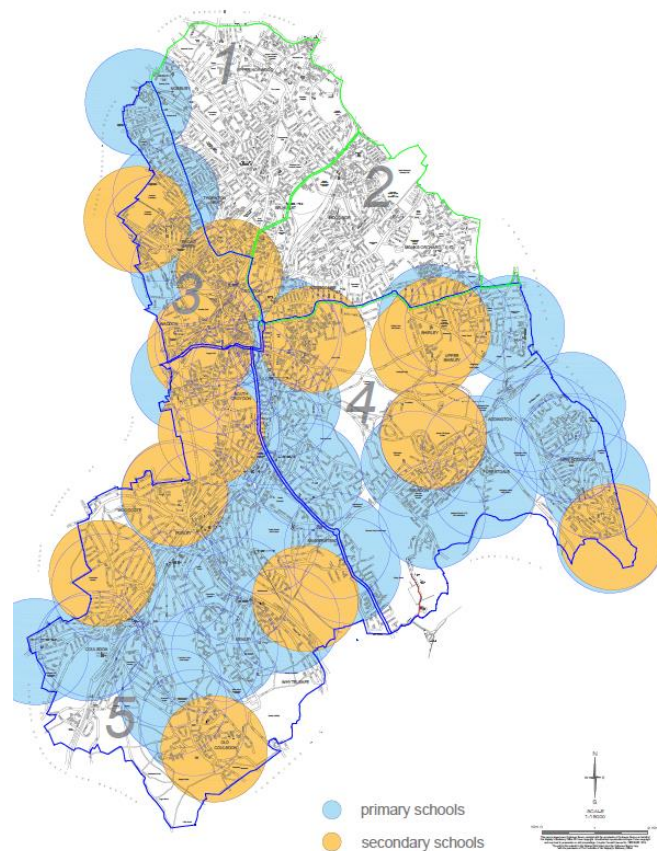
20mph Decision Update

On Tuesday 9th May the Traffic Management Advisory Committee agreed to the introduction of the area wide 20mph speed limits in areas 3, 4 and 5 covering the Northwest, Southeast and Southwest areas of the borough.

The 20mph areas are to be introduced in order, implementation completed by the end of March 2018.

The main aims of this project are to reduce the speed of traffic, thus improving road safety, discouraging through traffic, encouraging walking and cycling, and to provide a safer and more pleasant environment for people to live and work in.

The plan below shows the schools in Croydon Areas 3, 4 & 5 and the areas around each school within a 10-15 minute walking distance (1km or 0.63 miles). This map demonstrates the areas in this part of the borough where a 20mph limit will provide road safety benefits for pupils and their parents/carers walking to school.



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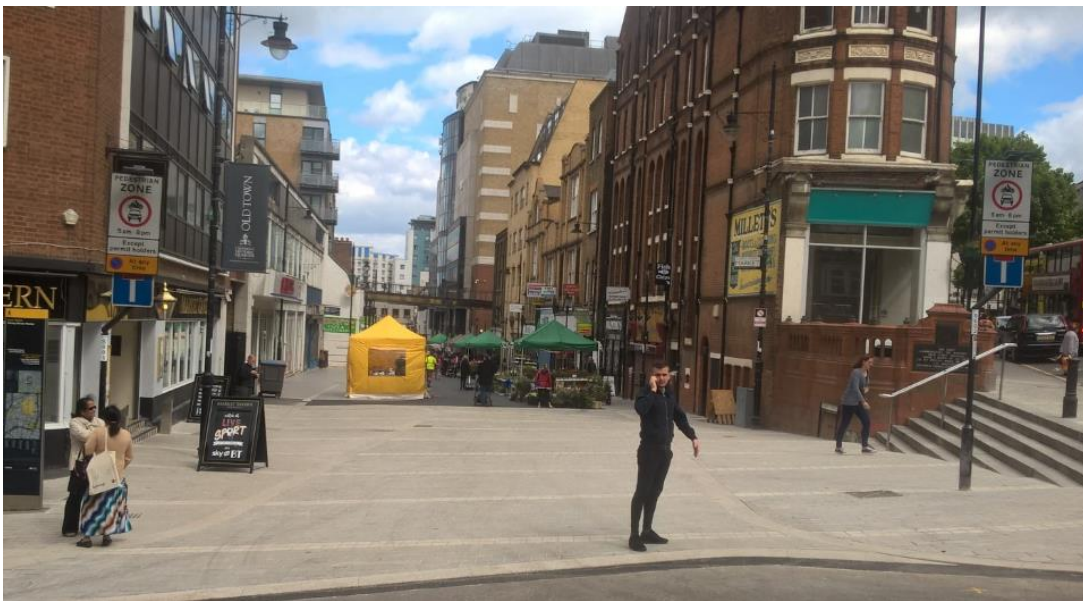


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Latest News

Surrey Street Market

The public realm works to Surrey Street Market have been completed and market traders are back on site; more public art, lighting and wayfinding installations will be completed over the coming weeks.



The Schoony art installation (below) was installed on 6th June and is already receiving positive feedback on the street and on social media. More installations are planned in June 2017, brightening the area and improving building facades.

We will be holding a celebration event to relaunch the market on 24th June with an exciting package of entertainments throughout the afternoon and evening – look out for more detail in Your Croydon updates and on Twitter @yourcroydon.

Surrey Street Sunday Market will also be coming back to Old Town over the summer with a mix of food and drink, and other produce – pitches will be available from as little as £15 per day. We will shortly launch a competition for free pitches on the Sunday market for new traders who are looking to try a new venue, test their business ideas or showcase products – more information will be available over the next week or so.



AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON



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Working Together

Small Business Commission

Working with Commissioners from local SMEs and business support agencies, London Borough of Croydon have been exploring opportunities for, and barriers to, business growth for Croydon's Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SME's).

The commission used a variety of workshops, interview visits and a survey to ask hundreds of companies across the borough for their feedback on what helps and hinders their economic growth. The Commissioners have now drafted an interim draft report which includes a series of recommendations for stakeholders in Croydon to work together to support our diversely and innovative SME community.

The initial findings of the draft interim report will be presented at Cabinet on the 19th June 2017, after which businesses will be invited to provide us with feedback on the draft report. The final report and action plan will be launched in September 2017. If you are a businesses and you would like to get involved please do not hesitate to contact me.

Supporting our businesses – Business Rates

The new Discretionary Business Rates Relief Policy introduced in December 2016 aims to support inward investment and business growth to increase or safeguards jobs in the borough. The Council has so far granted rates relief to the Dice Bar, MyPTStudio, Croydon BID, Art Rebellion, and Sussex Innovation Centre which had created or safeguarded 78 jobs; as a condition of relief these businesses will accredit through the Good Employer Charter. Business in the borough can make an application for discretionary relief at any time where proposals create or sustain jobs in Croydon. To find out more about the scheme please contact Director of Economic Growth emma.lindsell@croydon.gov.uk.

Following lobbying from Croydon and other areas the Government announced £300m transition funding for businesses particularly hard hit by the business rates revaluation exercise. The transition funding currently earmarked for Croydon is £3.07m available over the next 3 years – this is obviously welcome news although arguably does not go far enough to mitigate the inequitable impact on Croydon businesses as a result of the revaluation. The Council has advised government how we think the funding should be used to best benefit local businesses and we are awaiting formal confirmation of processes, final funding allocation and eligibility from central government before making the funds available. Implementation of the transition fund has been held up by the General Election; if businesses are in particular having difficulty due to revaluation they can contact the council and we will be open to flexible arrangements to overcome problems.



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Good Employer Croydon

Good Employer Croydon goes from strength to strength. We now have 10 businesses accredited and delivering better outcomes for our residents by employing local, buying local, including all and paying the London Living Wage. Even more encouraging we have 38 pledges who we are working with to move them into accredited status. Our forward plan of work will see us working closely with our own contractors to encourage them to become accredited and also continuing our exciting programme of events. The last event encouraged our businesses to buy local and saw presentations from Value Croydon, Wilmot Dixon and 3D Change.

Employers big and small can be accredited...

“IKEA is privileged to become accredited to the Good Employer Charter in Croydon. Our vision is to create a better everyday life for the many people, and we believe that by committing to paying the living wage, employing local, buying local and including all this takes us closer to realising this vision. Being part of and building a network of employers that share these values supports Croydon and our community to grow and develop, both now and in the future”

Abbi Whitcombe, HR manager, Ikea Croydon

For more information visit: www.goodemployercroydon.com/

Your Future Workforce

Croydon’s further education colleges and Croydon Adult Learning and Training (CALAT) came together with the Council to begin discussions with Croydon employers about the way they can influence curriculum to ensure they get the skills employees they need to grow their businesses. The event had presentations from the Education and Skills Funding Agency, Axis Europe, Denbies Vineyard, Croydon, Coulsdon, John Ruskin and CALAT colleges. Chaired by the London Chamber of Commerce vital connections were made between employers and skills providers about sponsoring courses, gaining access to funding for training and recruiting apprentices. This is the first in a series of conversations about employer’s impact on local curriculum so that we can ensure our residents have the skills that employers want.



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Croydon Works

Croydon Works, the Council's job brokerage service continues to support residents into work and deliver a free professional recruitment service to Croydon businesses. The service provides a bespoke service to businesses reducing the cost of recruitment by providing pre-screened, trained and high quality candidates for interview. It also supports residents to access a range of live job vacancies by offering training, interview skills and employability support. Croydon Works is currently managing job vacancies for security officers at Gatwick, construction posts across various skills including carpentry, painting and decorating, and electrics, as well as retail roles for stores including Ikea.

Businesses looking to recruit and residents looking for a job should go to: www.croydonworks.co.uk for more information.

VisitLondon.com

Croydon is now part of the Visit London family. The Croydon hub on the VisitLondon site has been developed in partnership with Gatwick Airport and can be found at www.visitlondon.com/croydon.

The site positions Croydon firmly on the London visitor scene and is focused on both local visitors – residents looking for something new to do and on outside visitors to the borough finding out what's on offer. The site will also be used as part the marketing suite to promote Croydon to potential investors, incoming businesses and new residents by showcasing the growing cultural offer of the borough as well as the extensive range of restaurants, hotels and leisure activities available across the borough.

The VisitLondon site attracts users from all over the world and throughout the year, with an average of 3.33 million visits per month and 10 million page views per month. It is a trusted site for families, young professionals and travellers looking for events, days out, places to visit, stay and eat out.



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LATEST NEWS

Legacy

Croydon's soon-to-be-built youth centre, the Legacy Youth Zone has met its £6m capital fundraising target thanks to a very generous anonymous private donation of £1m and plus another £1m from the Queen's Trust on top of contributions made by The Stone Family Foundation, The Fidelity Foundation and the £3.25m from the council.

It's fantastic news that OnSide have been able to raise such a large amount of money in such a short space of time. I'd like to personally thank all those people and organisations who have put faith in what I know will be a brilliant project. Our young people deserve the best possible facilities, and that is what the Legacy Youth Zone will provide.

The centre will be based in Whitehorse Road which provide a wide range of affordable activities for our young people, some of whom have been recruited by OnSide to help with developing plan. They have also been busy encouraging sponsors and spreading the word across the borough.

A full planning application is expected to be submitted this summer to allow the centre to be opened in autumn 2018.

Contact Officer: mark.fowler@croydon.gov.uk

Care Leaver

I was really impressed by the powerful speech given by one of our care leavers, Fatima Traore, during International Women's Day. She is currently doing an apprenticeship with Accenture and I wish her the best in all she does.

m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=57yW8T1ROqM

Contact Officer: wendy.tomlinson@croydon.gov.uk

New 2 – 19yrs SEND School Agreed for the Borough

There has been an increase in the number of children identified with special educational needs and, in particular, autism, over the past seven years. Croydon Council identified a need for a new special school to support these young people in accessing local specialist education and submitted a bid to the Department for



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Education for capital funding. The bid has been successful, the DfE have agreed funding for a purpose-built new free special school in Croydon for children age 2-19 years with autism. The special education provision will have a clear focus on supporting young people in gaining employment and independence in or near their local community. There will be an open competition to establish the free school provider, which will be launched in September (date TBC). It is expected that the new school will open in September 2020.

Contact Officer: caroline.baxter@croydon.gov.uk

“Together We Can” – Reference Group Launched

In partnership with ‘Parents in Partnership’ (PiP) Croydon Council has established a Parent/Carer Reference Group with the aim of establishing a strong foundation for co-production between Croydon Council, statutory services and parents of children with special educational needs. I am a member of the board along with my deputy, Cllr Shafi Khan, We are joined with representatives from PiP, Family Lives, KIDS, schools, health and the 0-25 SEND service and the Council. The first meeting has taken place and a programme of consultation will be co-ordinated through the Parent Carer Reference Group; with key focus for the group being the implementation of the Children’s and Families Act reforms and development of the Borough’s SEND Strategy.

Contact Officer: caroline.baxter@croydon.gov.uk

Croydon School wins Jo Cox award in Show Racism the Red Card competition

Croydon’s Elmwood Infant School & Nursery has won the Jo Cox Memorial Award at the annual Show Racism the Red Card prizegiving ceremony.

This is the eighth year running the school has won in one category or another of the national competition, and some of the staff, children and parents attended the event at Leicester City FC’s stadium to receive their honour.





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Iona Lawrence, director of the Jo Cox Foundation, selected Elmwood as the winning entry, and England Manager and former Crystal Palace centre half, Gareth Southgate was on hand to help congratulate the winners.

Zoe Harris, head teacher at the school, said: *“We’re so, so proud to have been chosen for this award. The school takes the Show Racism the Red Card competition very seriously every year because it’s such an important subject. It was fantastic to be told by Iona that Jo would have loved the poster the children designed – in fact she told us it would have made her laugh, which is so nice to hear.”*

I’m more than delighted that Elmwood have continued their winning streak and been recognised in this way for their tireless efforts to help stamp out racism. The future of our society relies upon children getting on together in harmony as they grow up, so competitions like this are important in helping them learn the value of seeing people for who they are, not the colour of their skin.”



Contact Officer: david.butler@croydon.gov.uk

Official opening for Chestnut Park Primary School

One of Croydon’s newest schools, Chestnut Park Primary, held its official opening ceremony on 18 May to celebrate settling into its new building on St James’ Road. This was an opportunity to celebrate the excellent new school building with the children, parents, carers, school staff and governors as well as colleagues and contractors who were involved in the planning, design and construction of the school. It was fantastic to hear how highly the children value their school and each guest was given a hand written thank you card from a child at the school.





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The school, was jointly funded by the council and the Education Funding Authority, cost £10million to build. It takes in 90 pupils each September and by 2021 will be home to 630 children.

The school's innovative hybrid design includes a secure rooftop learning deck where children can enjoy learning outdoors. The space has already been used for a planting project, as well as a stargazing evening with a science specialist.

Contact Officer: Jennifer.wade@croydon.gov.uk,

Ofsted Inspection - Calleydown Respite Centre Rated "Good"

The London Borough of Croydon's Children's Respite and Short Breaks Centre, Calleydown was inspected by Ofsted recently and was judged to be 'Good'. The short breaks provision at Calleydown provides a welcoming 'home away from home' environment for young people with complex SEN. Staff, led by Calleydown manager, Jennie Pearce are dedicated to supporting Croydon young people and their families.

Contact Officer: caroline.baxter@croydon.gov.uk

School Place Planning

The latest plans to ensure the sufficiency of primary, secondary and special school places in the borough will be set out in the Education Estates Report, which will be considered by Cabinet in July. This will include an update on the Special Education Needs Free School for children with autism which was announced earlier this year.

School expansions at Chipstead Valley, Christchurch Church of England Primary, St John's Church of England School and Heavers Farm are nearing completion, as are the new permanent buildings for Heathfield Academy and Harris Primary Purley Way. These will be ready in time for the new academic year.

The official opening of the permanent expansion at Ark Oval will take place on 5 June. I wish all children and parents who will undertake their journey through the school my very best and I hope they enjoy it.

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



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School Admissions

Offers continue to be made for reception and secondary places for September. Parents can still apply online for a place until 20 July, with a paper form available to download for those who apply over the summer holidays.

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

Innovation Fund bids

We have been shortlisted for three of our Innovation Fund bids – given that there are only 60 in the country that in itself is a huge step forward for Croydon. The three bids are:

- Targeted services for Children in Need, jointly with Medway Council, NSPCC and Family Action
- A Care Leaver Trust, in partnership with Barnardo's
- A South London Commissioning Partnership for LAC placements along with five other South London authorities

Given the General Election, there may be a slight delay in making final decisions, but the work we have done will still be really helpful in taking our thinking forward on all of these issues.

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

Councillor Alisa Flemming
Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning