



**CROYDON COUNCIL MEETING: MONDAY 22 APRIL 2013**  
**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**  
**WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Welcome to a meeting of Croydon Council. Attached are the questions from the public and the replies which will be taken at this meeting.

IF YOU HAVE ASKED A QUESTION, PLEASE MAKE YOURSELF KNOWN TO THE MEMBER OF STAFF WHO IS PRESENT IN THE PUBLIC GALLERY, THEN READ THE REPLY TO YOUR QUESTION AND INDICATE WHETHER YOU INTEND TO ASK A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION - a roving microphone will be available for that purpose.

Public Question time is usually towards the beginning on the meeting and the process for this item is as follows:

- ◆ The questions will be taken in the order in which they were received by the Council;
- ◆ The question and the reply will be taken as read;
- ◆ The person who asked the question, if present, will then be invited to ask a supplementary question, (if they wish) to clarify a point related to the reply they have been given in the written answer. The **length and detail of such a question should be brief** and at the discretion of the Mayor, allowing for the time available and the number of other questions which need to be dealt with;
- ◆ Public question time is limited strictly to **15 minutes** - if all the questions and answers have not been reached at the end of that time, the other replies will be taken as read and there will be no further opportunity for asking supplementary questions at that meeting; and
- ◆ Questions will not be carried over to the following meeting, but it is of course in order for questioners to ask another question on the same or another topic before the next meeting.

After the public question time you are very welcome to stay for the rest of the meeting

Question Number	Question to Cabinet Member	Question From	Subject
PQ017	Councillor Pollard	Mr P. Williams	Sustrains
PQ018	Councillor Hoar	Mr S. Khan	Health Protection Agency
PQ019	Councillor Fisher	Ms C Davies	Members declarations
PQ020	Councillor Thomas	Mr S Mann	Ashburton - highways
PQ021	Councillor Pollard	Ms S Kennett	Secondary school build
PQ022	Councillor Fisher	Mr j Cartwright	Sanderstead Ward votes

PQ023	Councillor Thomas	Mr D Pettener	Viridor services
PQ024	Councillor Pollard	Dr P Goodman	Secondary school expansion
PQ025	Councillor Pollard	Mr R Elliott	Children's play areas
PQ026	Councillor Pollard	Ms C Kirkby	CALAT
PQ027	Councillor Bashford	Mr A Pelling	Freedom of Information
PQ028	Councillor Pollard	Mr A Muirhead	Primary aged children
PQ029	Councillor Hoar	Mrs M Hanson	Fly-Tipping
PQ030	Councillor Pollard	Ms L Cocking	CALAT

The attached replies are subject to oral amendment by the Cabinet Member or Committee Chair.

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**From Mr Paul Williams**

**Councillor Jason Perry**

**Cabinet Member for Planning, Regeneration and Transport.**

**Question No.**

**PQ 017-13**

The Croydon portrait bench consultation (hosted on Council website) closed over 8 months ago (June13). Despite several attempts to raise with @yourcroydon - who have failed to respond on each occasion - I should like to know the results of the competition.

**Reply**

This is a Sustrans competition who have been working with Croydon Council on cycle and walking trails across the borough. Sustrans wanted to tie in the announcement of the winners of the portrait bench with the actual unveiling of the bench itself.

The results are due to be announced formally in May 2013 with the unveiling of the portrait bench which following a public vote will have feature:-

- 1) Dame Peggy Ashcroft
- 2) Samuel Taylor-Coleridge
- 3) Ronnie Corbett

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**From Mr Shasha Khan**

**Councillor Simon Hoar**

**Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Protection.**

**Question No.**

**PQ 018–13**

In light of recent failings of the Food Standards Agency, is the Council confident that the Health Protection Agency can ensure emissions from the planned incinerator will not exceed safe levels, given the HPA will visit the site only once a year?

**Reply**

As the regulator will be the Environment Agency it will be their responsibility to continually assess the plant operations and its environmental performance. This will include the continuous and periodic monitoring of emissions by the operator, check monitoring by the EA and frequent plant inspections. The process will be risk assessed and the number of visits will be dependent on the outcome of this assessment. As the Permit has not been completed the council does not know how often the site will be inspected at this time

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**From Ms Charlotte Davies**

**Councillor Mike Fisher**

**The Leader of the Council**

**Question No.**

**PQ 019–13**

Further to reports in the Daily Telegraph on March 11, 2013, can the Leader of the Council detail, by names and the bodies that they have declared that they work for, those councillors, Labour and Conservative, who have received payments as employees or freelance consultants from property lobbyists or the building industry?

**Reply**

I thank Ms Davies for her question but this is a matter for each individual councillor to declare, this information can be found on the Council website.

<http://www.croydon.gov.uk/democracy/dande/ethics-committee/members-interests/>

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**From Mr Stephen Mann**

**Councillor Phil Thomas**

**Cabinet Member for Highways and Environmental Services.**

**Question No.**

**PQ 020-13**

What are the council doing regarding tackling potholes and erosion of grass verges in Ashburton ward?

**Reply**

Having checked with the Councils Officers and The Contact Centre we can find no evidence of you reporting any potholes or damaged grassed verges in Ashburton Ward or any where else in the Borough?

Can you please write to me with the locations in question?

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**From Ms Sue Kennett**

**Councillor Tim Pollard**

**Deputy Leader (Communications) and Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Learning.**

**Question No.**

**PQ 021–13**

Please identify and list the other locations that Cllr Pollard and the Council Education department have seriously considered for a new secondary school build in the borough other than CALAT and Arena, and explain in detail why those locations have been rejected?

**Reply**

As reported to Cabinet in April 2012, an exercise was carried out to identify all sites with a minimum area of 10,000 sq m located in the areas of greatest need – the north and centre of the borough. Two suitable sites were identified and fully considered for the development of new secondary schools: CALAT / Arena and the former site of the Croydon General Hospital on London Rd. Proposals to create new 6 form entry schools on of these are in progress. Both of these sites are in the north of the borough, where overall pressure on school places is at its greatest.

Despite its location being less suitable, the site of the Croydon Highway Depot in Purley was also considered but rejected because of location and because a large part of the site is regularly flooded as part of the London Flood Defence plan.

No other sites which are of a suitable size and location and could be made available for 2014 or 2015 opening were found. However, a further search, with support from a specialist development company and the council's Planning service, is currently underway and options for new secondary schools for 2016 onwards will be considered by Cabinet later this year.

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**From Mr John Cartwright**

**Councillor Mike Fisher**

**Leader of the Council**

**Question No.**

**PQ 022-13**

How many votes did the Labour candidates get in (a) the local election in Sanderstead ward in 1982, and (b) the Sanderstead by-election in 1984?

**Reply**

Thank you for your question.

At the local elections for Sanderstead ward in May 1982 the two Labour candidates got a total of 329 votes. There followed a by-election in September 1982 at which the Labour candidate got 114 votes. At the by-election held in 1984 the Labour candidate got 448 votes.

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**From Mr Dave Pettener**

**Councillor Phil Thomas**

**Cabinet Member for Highways and Environmental Services.**

**Question No.**

**PQ 023–13**

Croydon Council have voted in favour of building an incinerator. Assuming it goes ahead, please can you give me details of what the interim service is that Viridor will be providing the partnership until the facility is operational in 2017?

**Reply**

I thank Mr Pettener for his question but would like to correct him, Croydon Council has never voted to build an incinerator. What we have voted for is a waste to energy facility that has been taken forward by the South London Waste partnership.

The South London Waste Partnership will finalise the interim arrangements for Viridor to manage the Partnership's residual waste from 1 April 2014 following the outcome of the consideration of the Planning Authority of Viridor's proposal to build an Energy Recovery Facility at Beddington Lane.

The interim arrangements will include a combination of transporting of residual waste to alternative Energy Recovery Facilities and landfilling of waste at Beddington Farmlands.

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**From Dr. Paula Goodman**

**Councillor Tim Pollard**

**Deputy Leader (Communications) and Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Learning.**

**Question No.**

**PQ 024–13**

Could the Council's Education department provide its most current list of the existing Secondary Schools that have been earmarked for expansion, stating how many additional Forms of Entry this equates to?

**Reply**

In April 2012, Cabinet agreed an outline Secondary Estates Strategy designed to make up the anticipated shortfall in secondary places in coming years. This listed potential expansions at a number of schools and Cabinet agreed that officers should continue to explore these options.

The schools listed in this paper were:

Westwood Girls

Oasis Academy Shirley Park

Edenham High

Archbishop Lanfranc

Please note that this draft list is subject to significant amendment as we consult with the Governing bodies of the schools concerned.

A report will be presented to Cabinet this summer, which sets out further options for expansions and new secondary schools. Where expansions are to be proposed, this will be discussed and agreed with the school governing bodies concerned.

The Council is consulting on the establishment of new secondary schools at the CALAT / Croydon Arena sites in South Norwood and at the site on London Rd that was formerly the Croydon General Hospital. Each of these will provide an additional 180 places per year.

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**From Mr Robert Elliott**

**Councillor Tim Pollard**

**Deputy Leader (Communications) and Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Learning.**

**Question No.**

**PQ 025–13**

Please give details of what revenue and capital has been spent in each of 11/12 and 12/13 by the Council on each of the children's playgrounds/ play areas in the borough, listed by ward they are in.

**Reply**

The Capital expenditure on playgrounds in the two years in question was as follows:-

<b>Capital Expenditure</b>		
<b>2011/12</b>		
<b>Site</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Ward</b>
Hares Bank	£50,000	New Addington
Norbury Park	£74,000	Norbury
Sanderstead Recreation Ground	£50,000	Sanderstead
<b>2012/13</b>		
<b>Site</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Ward</b>
Rotary Field	£39,000	Purley
Addiscombe Recreation Ground	£60,000	Ashburton
Milne Park	£37,000	New Addington
Queen Elizabeth's Drive	£47,000	New Addington
Thornton Heath Recreation Ground	£45,500	Bensham Manor
Lloyd Park	£175,500	Fairfield
Wandle Park	£160,000	

In terms of revenue expenditure on playgrounds, across all wards:-

<b>Year</b>	<b>Amount</b>
2011/12	£45,000
2012/13	£50,000 (End of year figure TBC)

This expenditure includes:-

- monthly safety check of all 53 play areas between March and October and bi-monthly November to February
- Annual inspection by RoSPA of all play areas
- minor ad-hoc repairs as when required throughout the year.

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**From Ms Claire Kirkby**

**Councillor Tim Pollard**

**Deputy Leader (Communications) and Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Learning.**

**Question No.**

**PQ 026–13**

Given that there were providers who came forward in response to the council's proposal for a 4FE at CALAT, why doesn't the council reconsider that option instead of pursuing a controversial build on MOL that only delivers an extra 2FE?

**Reply**

We are currently experiencing unprecedentedly high school rolls in the early years of our primary schools. These pupils will move on to secondary school soon, with the first signs of higher demand due in 2014, with substantial increases after that. We need to provide as many places as we can.

Additionally, incorporating the Arena and its users into the scheme provides both an opportunity for much enhanced community facilities and to deliver a real Olympic legacy.

The impact of the proposal on Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) will be minimal. The school buildings will replace 800 sq m of buildings that currently occupy MOL; in total the area of MOL used will be 2,650 sq m. This represents 0.015% of the MOL in the immediate vicinity and taking account of the current buildings being replaced is an increase of 0.01%.

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**From Mr Andrew Pelling**

**Councillor Sara Bashford**

**Cabinet Member for Corporate and Voluntary Services**

**Question No.**

**PQ 027-13**

Please detail the number of FOI requests received from January 1 2012 to twenty working days before this council meeting answered by the authority

- within five working days
- after five but before twenty working days
- after twenty working days exactly
- later than twenty working days
- that remain unanswered

**Reply**

1803 FOI requests were received by the council from 01 January 2012 to 22 March 2013. The table below shows the response time or current status of those requests.

Number of FOI requests responded to within 20 working days.	1349 (155 of these were responded to within 5 working days)
Number of FOI requests responded to after 20 working days	359
Number of FOI requests that remain unanswered	53 (of these, 30 are still within the 20 day limit, 17 are on hold pending request to sender for further information and 6 are currently overdue) Those that are overdue are complex and sensitive in nature and require detailed answers and input from departments.
Number of FOI requests cancelled	42
<b>Total number of FOI requests received</b>	<b>1803</b>

Over the last two financial years FOI response times have continually improved. Currently 83.28% of requests received during the 2012/13 financial year were responded to within 20 working days. This compares to 78.30% for 2011/12.

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**From Mr Andy Muirhead**

**Councillor Tim Pollard**

**Deputy Leader (Communications) and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning.**

**Question No.**

**PQ 028–13**

Using the data currently available, i.e. the Pupil Census, please can you give exact figures as to how many Croydon primary aged children are on roll who will need secondary school places in Sep 2017 and how many places currently exist?

**Reply**

There is currently capacity for 3862 year 7 (age 11) places in Croydon secondary schools. By September 2017 following consultation we expect that new secondary schools will have opened at the CALAT / Croydon Arena sites in South Norwood and at the site on London Rd that was formerly the Croydon General Hospital. Each of these will provide an additional 180 places per year, increasing overall capacity to 4222 places.

The January pupil census recorded 4173 pupils on roll in year 3 of Croydon Primary schools – the cohort which will reach year 7 in September 2017. However, the current size of that cohort does not translate exactly into the size of the expected September 2017 year 7. Some will not go on to Croydon schools and some pupils will enter the borough for secondary school. Our best estimate of the number of places needed for 2017 is between 4389 and 4477.

In April 2012, Cabinet agreed an outline Secondary Estates Strategy designed to make up the anticipated shortfall in secondary places in coming years. Work is currently under way to identify sites for new secondary schools and to develop the outline proposals set out in that strategy for expansion of current schools. Later this year, this strategy will be updated with details of the outcomes of this work.

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**From Mrs Maddie Hanson**

**Councillor Simon Hoar**

**Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Public Protection**

**Question No.**

**PQ 029–13**

With fly-tipping becoming an ever growing issue in areas of Croydon Central, like Ashburton, since weekly bin collections were abolished - to the disgust of local residents and DCLG Minister Eric Pickles. What has the council done and what will it do to crackdown on this blight on the public environment and public health?

**Reply**

The following is a summary of the Council's Current resources and capacity to deal with all elements of Environmental Crime including Fly Tipping, Graffiti and inspecting sites cleansed by our contractors Veolia.

**Frequency of Collections**

The Council continues to provide weekly collection services for residents through a range of kerbside recycling services of food waste and either a green or blue box collection. The frequency for the collection of landfill bins is every other week.

**Area Enforcement Officers (AEO)**

Patrol service of 24 officers split in to four teams. Responsible for initial investigation of ASB and environmental crime including fly tipping, waste presentation issues, littering, dog fouling and highways offences such as overhanging vegetation. The AEO's work closely with the police and are authorised by legislation to serve fixed-penalty notices and to instigate legal action against those committing environmental offences crimes and related antisocial behaviour.

The AEO's also inspect and monitor the standards and performance of the council's contractors Veolia reporting any anomalies or defaults against contractual requirements to the council's Waste Management Team

**Enforcement Officers**

The Council currently employs two officers responsible for case managing the enforcement process and prosecutions for environmental and highways offences.

This includes fly tipping and other waste management offences as well as dealing with unauthorised encampments on the highway and other highway obstructions.

## **Environmental Response Team (ERT)**

This team of eight officers undertakes improvements to the general environment. They are charged with removing graffiti, clearing alleys, installing alley gate schemes, jet washing, installing signs and cutting back overgrown vegetation. This is a sample of the work they do and are adaptable to quick time needs. The team also works closely with the probation service to coordinate activity to deliver the Community Payback Scheme – a national service that oversees offenders under probation service supervision undertaking community work.

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**From Ms Lucy Cocking**

**Councillor Tim Pollard**

**Deputy Leader (Communications) Cabinet Member for Children,  
Young People and Learning**

**Question No.**

**PQ 030–13**

Can you please tell us who is the chosen provider for the CALAT/Arena proposed school?

**Reply**

This is a decision for the Secretary of State for Education. We advertised in late January for providers and received an excellent response with many very credible and innovative proposals. These have been submitted to the DfE and we hope to hear the Secretary of State's decision in the near future. We look forward to the establishment of an exciting new secondary school.