

QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

Question Number	Question asked by Councillor:	Subject
DEPUTY LEADER (STATUTORY) AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES, REGENERATION AND PLANNING – Councillor Alison Butler		
CQ319	Creatura, M	Landlord Licensing
CQ321	Brew, S	Landlord Licensing
CQ322	Clancy, L	Community Infrastructure
CQ323	Hale, L	Homes
PQ82	Mrs. Marike Du Toit	Provision of Homes
PQ83	Miss Alison Tong	Green Space
PQ84	Miss Alison Tong	Leaseholder services
PQ85	Mr Samir Dwaser	Brick by Brick sites
PQ86	Mr Pierre Morcos	Public Consultation
PQ88	Miss Alison Tong	Green Space
PQ89	Mr Mick Hewish	Residential Development
PQ90	Mr Mick Hewish	Metropolitan Open Land
CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE & SPORT - Councillor Timothy Godfrey		
CQ325	Pollard, H	Cycle Routes
CQ327	Pollard, H	Herbicide Chemicals
CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMY AND JOBS - Councillor Mark Watson		
CQ320	Creatura, M	London Living Wage
CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & LEARNING – Councillor Alisa Flemming		
PQ91	Mrs Bonita Clark	Anti-Smoking
CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND TREASURY – Councillor Simon Hall		
CQ324	Creatura, M	“Your Croydon” Magazine

Councillor Alison Butler

1. Could you please detail the number of individual properties that have applied for the Council's landlord licensing scheme?
2. Could you please detail the number of applications that have been granted for the landlord licensing scheme?
3. Could you please detail the number of applications that have been rejected for the landlord licensing scheme?
4. Could you please detail the total income generated from the landlord licensing scheme since implementation? Could you please detail the total cost of implementing the scheme to date?
5. Could you please detail the number of FTE staff devoted to the administration of the landlord licensing scheme?
6. Could you please detail the number of FTE staff who inspect the properties of applicants to the landlord licensing scheme? What is the average time from an application being received to inspection?
7. Since implementation, could you please detail the number of properties that have been inspected by Council staff before granting of a landlord license?
8. In a press release from 13th July 2015, Cllr Butler claimed the landlord licensing scheme would ensure "landlords who successfully apply early...set the standard for others to follow." Could you please detail the process by which the Council assesses a landlord's suitability for the license? Could you please detail the list of criteria that landlords must meet to receive the license? What is the 'pass mark' to get a license? (<http://news.croydon.gov.uk/croydon-landlords-sign-up-for-licensing-scheme-discount/>)
10. In the same release Cllr Butler stated the landlord licensing scheme was "in response to a rise in privately-rented properties, with negative consequences including antisocial behaviour and poor-quality homes." Could you please detail how the Council has been quantifying improvements in anti-social behaviour? Could you please detail the statistical reduction in anti-social behaviour since the introduction of this policy?
11. How often does the Council inspect license-holders to ensure they remain compliant with the terms of the license? What is the penalty for not complying with the license and how is the license revoked if this is the case?

Reply

1. Could you please detail the number of individual properties that have applied for the Council's landlord licensing scheme? **To date we have received 27, 750.**
2. Could you please detail the number of applications that have been granted for the landlord licensing scheme? **To date we have fully granted approx. 10,700 licences.**
3. Could you please detail the number of applications that have been rejected for the landlord licensing scheme? **None to date.**
4. Could you please detail the total income generated from the landlord licensing scheme since implementation? Could you please detail the total cost of implementing the scheme to date? **The total income that Selective Licensing has generated since the start of the scheme is £9.68m. This is income received in advance and is intended to cover the Council's costs over the whole 5-year licensing period. Since the scheme went live in Sept-2015 we have spent £1.074m.**
5. Could you please detail the number of FTE staff devoted to the administration of the landlord licensing scheme? **13FTE incl. team manager dedicated to selective**

licensing which includes answering calls, responding to emails as well as processing applications & issuing licences.

6. Could you please detail the number of FTE staff who inspect the properties of applicants to the landlord licensing scheme? What is the average time from an application being received to inspection? **We currently have 16.8 FTE technical staff who carry out licence inspections as part of their duties. The time taken for an inspection to be carried out depends on the priority given to the case (some are carried out within days) but we received over 23,000 applications during the 'early bird' discounted fee period and clearly only a small percentage of these have been inspected to date. Our aim is to inspect 100% of properties at least once within the 5 year period of the scheme, therefore a large number will not be inspected for some time.**

7. Since implementation, could you please detail the number of properties that have been inspected by Council staff before granting of a landlord license? **There is no requirement to inspect properties before issuing the licence, and given the large number of applications it is not possible to do this in every case. The IT system used to record inspections is different to the one used to issue the licences, therefore it is not possible to give an exact number of properties that have been inspected prior to the licence being issued, our estimate is around 100.**

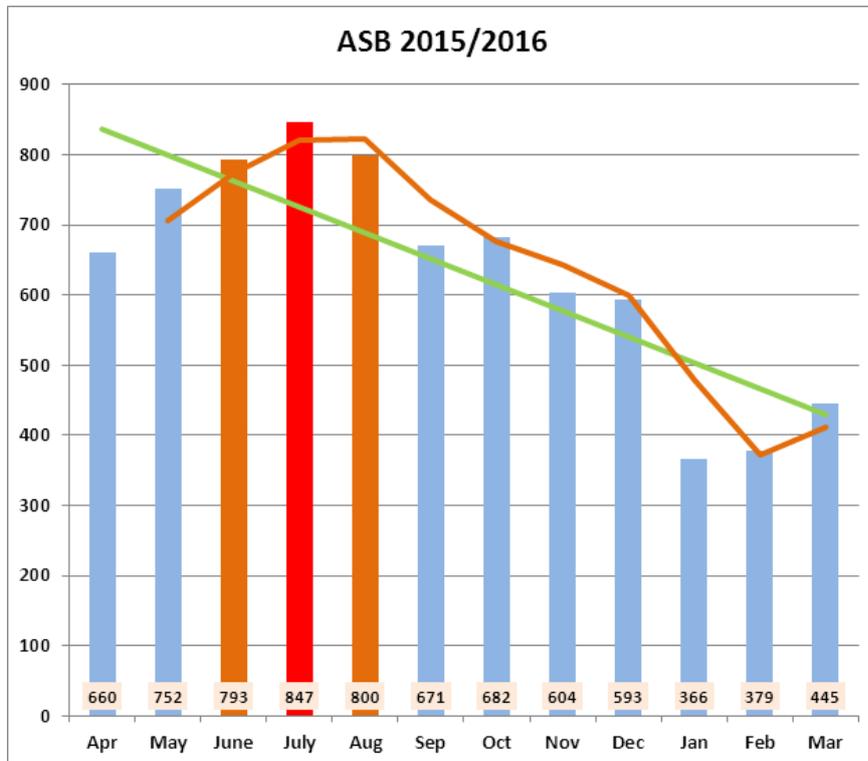
8. In a press release from 13th July 2015, Cllr Butler claimed the landlord licensing scheme would ensure "landlords who successfully apply early...set the standard for others to follow." Could you please detail the process by which the Council assesses a landlord's suitability for the license? Could you please detail the list of criteria that landlords must meet to receive the license? What is the 'pass mark' to get a license? (<http://news.croydon.gov.uk/croydon-landlords-sign-up-for-licensing-scheme-discount/>). **Under the Housing Act 2004 licence holders must pass the 'fit and proper' test to be eligible to hold a licence, please see section 89 of the Act at Housing Act 2004 for the requirements.**

10. In the same release Cllr Butler stated the landlord licensing scheme was "in response to a rise in privately-rented properties, with negative consequences including antisocial behaviour and poor-quality homes." Could you please detail how the Council has been quantifying improvements in anti-social behaviour? Could you please detail the statistical reduction in anti-social behaviour since the introduction of this policy? **Records are being kept of cases involving anti-social behaviour related to privately rented properties which are being dealt with by the housing enforcement, anti-social behaviour and neighbourhood safety teams.**

There is no available comparable statistical information at this time as the first year of the scheme is establishing the baseline against which performance will be measured.

There has been an increase in private landlords seeking advice on how to tackle tenants engaging in ASB.

ASB incidents overall continue to decrease borough wide (see chart below). The summer months always show an increase in incidents due to more people being outside and longer days. This can include complaints about playing football, barbeques, bonfires and parties.



11. How often does the Council inspect license-holders to ensure they remain compliant with the terms of the license? What is the penalty for not complying with the license and how is the license revoked if this is the case? **As mentioned, all properties will be inspected at least once within the 5 year life of the scheme and if there are no issues with the property, and no concerns about the landlord or the tenants, these will not be inspected again. Additional inspections will be carried out if we have any concerns, the number of inspections will depend on the nature of those concerns and the licence holder's response to them. If a licence holder fails to comply with any licence conditions we may take legal action, the financial penalty is decided by the magistrates and is a maximum of £5,000. We would not automatically revoke the licence in all these cases, if we did decide that revoking the licence was the best course of action we must follow the procedure contained in Schedule 5 of the Act Housing Act 2004, in brief we must serve a notice on the licence holder which gives the licence holder the opportunity to make representations and to appeal against our decision.**

CQ321-16 **from Councillor Simon Brew**

Councillor Alison Butler

- 1) What was the total one-time BUDGETED cost of setting up the online element of the Selective Licensing Scheme for landlords?
- 2) What was the total one-time ACTUAL cost of setting up the online element of the Selective Licensing Scheme for landlords?
- 3) What is the budgeted ANNUAL cost of maintaining the online element of the Selective Licensing Scheme for landlords?

Reply

- 1) *The total budgeted amount for the setting up of the online element Selective Licensing Scheme for landlords was:-*

£50,000 for consultancy and development costs

- 2) *The actual costs for the online element Selective Licensing Scheme for landlords was*

£46,912.55 has been spent on this element to date.

- 3) *What is the budgeted annual cost of maintaining the online element of the Selective Licensing Scheme for landlords?*

The budgeted annual cost for all ICT elements within Selective Licensing was £27,000 per annum. It is anticipated the support for the online element of this will be circa £3,000 per annum.

CQ322-16 **from Councillor Luke Clancy**

Councillor Alison Butler

1. Since May 2014, how much money has been accumulated in the Community Infrastructure Levy pot?
2. Since May 2014, how much money is currently left unspent in Section 106 monies?
3. Since May 2014, how have the above funds been spent in terms of delivering projects in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and in which wards has the Meaningful Proportion been spent?

Reply

1. The Council began charging the borough's Community Infrastructure Levy in April 2013. Since April 2013 the Council has collected £5,078,898. In the 2013/14 financial year the Council collected £249,538 borough Community Infrastructure Levy. Therefore, since April 2014 the Council has collected £4,829,360.
2. The current Section 106 balance sheet totals £10,922,318.

In addition to the Section 106 assignment through the Council's Infrastructure Finance Group set out under response 3, the Council is actively progressing the assignment of affordable housing contributions to support delivery of affordable rent units across the borough, education contributions are assigned to support the delivery of new schools and the recent Parks Review is informing the emerging park spending programme and phasing.

3. Since May 2014 to June 2016 the Council's Infrastructure Finance Group has agreed 58 bids (projects) for Section 106 funding for projects included in the Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan and / or Capital Programme, which totals £3,422,249 of assignment.

The Council's Infrastructure Finance Group has assigned Section 106 funding as follows over the last four years since its inception.

Year	Assignment
2012/13	£464,935
2013/14	£796,636
2014/15	£1,567,919
2015/16	£1,831,425

With regard to the assignment of the borough's Community Infrastructure Levy, the Council has not assigned any of the CIL received since the Charging Schedule came in to force in April 2013. The reason for this approach is that the Council was awaiting the outcome of the Council's application for Growth Zone status from the government. Clearly the outcome of this application was going to have significant implications for the Council's infrastructure investment and priorities.

As a consequence of the Growth Zone being agreed the Council is now in a position to assign the borough's CIL. The process to assign the borough's CIL will be

progressed now Cabinet has approved the Growth Zone (July 2016 Cabinet). This will also trigger work on the assignment of the Local Meaningful Proportion. The Council is currently considering the most appropriate approach to manage the CIL Local Meaningful Proportion in the context of Croydon not having parishes. The previous administration's Cabinet agreed in September 2012 a proposed approach to the assignment of the Local Meaningful Proportion based on the 16 Places in the Local Plan, and this will continue to inform the current consideration.

CQ323-16 **from Councillor Lynne Hale**

Councillor Alison Butler

1. Please could you advise when you expect homes to be available for people to move into on the Taberner House site?
2. Please provide some information about the Croydon households currently living in Bed and Breakfast accommodation. Please include the size of the family, the area in which they are currently living and how long they have been there.
3. Please advise the number of households currently on the Council's housing register including the breakdown of accommodation need e.g. one bed, three bed, adapted.

Reply

An announcement on the Taberner House site is imminent and we would expect the first homes to be completed by early 2019, subject to planning permission

The below confirms a breakdown of the households in emergency accommodation at the end of June 2016.

183 singles/couples
14 single/couple that are pregnant
220 households with 1 child
208 households with 2 children
241 households with 3+ children

834 of these households are retained within London with 516 in Croydon and 32 out of London.

The number reflects the growing pressure of larger households and the difficulties we face in sourcing suitable options, due to the restricting levels of the local housing allowance and landlords that are now unwilling to take house residents in receipt of benefits.

We currently have 6411 households on the Housing Register details below. However, there are many more people and families in Croydon, currently in housing need and living in overcrowded accommodation who are not registered.

Bed Need	Nos
1	2133
2	2952
3	903
4	309
5	91
6	22
7	1

Total

6411

Whilst the council endeavours to seek and procure increased housing options for residents such as large block purchases with registered providers, increasing and varying our offers to private landlords and utilising our new company brick by brick, the increasing house prices, mounting pressures from welfare reforms sets a worrying outlook for our residents and others in London.

From Mrs. Marike Du Toit

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration & Planning

Question No.

PQ082-16

The green space adjacent to 59-65 Montpelier Rd are apparently on the council's secret list to be converted into housing. Why is the council not transparent with proposed developments and are residents not informed of what the current status is? Also - if it is on the list, are you aware of the traffic and parking congestion already faced in Montpelier Rd as a result of our primary school's conversion to two form entry school. The safety of our kids are at stake

Reply

One of the greatest challenges that Croydon faces is the provision of new homes, particularly affordable ones. We are a borough, faced with a severe housing need. New homes are needed not only by those on our housing waiting list and those in emergency, overcrowded or temporary accommodation but also for those who are trying to save to buy their own homes. Many of our daughters and sons cannot see a way of getting on to the housing ladder and instead remain at homes or pay high rents, preventing them from saving.

With various factors generating ever greater demand for housing, it is clear that the council needs to take action. It cannot be right that Croydon children are having to live in Bed & Breakfast accommodation, that we know can affect their education, health and future opportunities. It is for this reason the council has set out a hugely ambitious agenda for increasing the supply of new homes, both private and affordable, with a particular emphasis on local lettings and sales

As encouraged by central government, we need to release the potential for new homes to be delivered on council owned land. The site at Montpelier Road (known as the Kingsdown site) is no secret, it can be found on the council's website. Brick by Brick are proposing a development with a mix of flats and houses of both private and affordable tenures. The proposals are at a relatively early stage and Brick by Brick are engaging with the local community, and with the Local Planning Authority through the pre application process.

The first engagement event for this site was held on 6th July 2016 and there was discussion on a variety of issues such as transport impact and parking. Feedback from the engagement processes will inform the design of the scheme as it progresses through the planning process.

From Miss Alison Tong

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration & Planning

Question No.

PQ083-16

Latest edition of "Your Croydon" states the Council is committed to protecting green spaces, therefore why does the recently released list of sites earmarked for housing development directly contradict this statement? + why has there been a complete failure to provide residents with information for the green space on Montpelier Road both from FOI requests over the last year and more recently from the council's community engagement company?

Reply

One of the greatest challenges that Croydon faces is the provision of new homes, particularly affordable ones. We are a borough, faced with a severe housing need. New homes are needed not only by those on our housing waiting list and those in emergency, overcrowded or temporary accommodation but also for those who are trying to save to buy their own homes. Many of our daughters and sons cannot see a way of getting on to the housing ladder and instead remain at homes or pay high rents, preventing them from saving.

With various factors generating ever greater demand for housing, it is clear that the council needs to take action. It cannot be right that Croydon children are having to live in Bed & Breakfast accommodation, that we know can affect their education, health and future opportunities. It is for this reason the council has set out a hugely ambitious agenda for increasing the supply of new homes, both private and affordable, with a particular emphasis on local lettings and sales

As encouraged by central government, we need to release the potential for new homes to be delivered on council owned land. At Montpelier Road, Brick by Brick are proposing a development with a mix of flats and houses of both private and affordable tenures. The proposals are at a relatively early stage and Brick by Brick are engaging with the local community, and with the Local Planning Authority through the pre application process. Any subsequent planning application would of course need to be considered against the Local Plan.

The first engagement event for this site was held on 6th July 2016 and there was discussion on a variety of issues such as amenity space, transport impact and parking. Feedback from the engagement processes will inform the design of the scheme as it progresses through the planning process.

I understand an FOI request was received regarding this site and a response was sent via the FOI team. Information relating to draft proposals is available to view on the Council's website via www.croydon.gov.uk/newhomes and this will be updated as the proposals are developed. Following the submission of any planning application, details of the proposals and relevant supporting documentation will be made available through Croydon Council's website <http://publicaccess.croydon.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

From Miss Alison Tong

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration & Planning

Question No.

PQ084-16

As leaseholders could you please confirm if housing management staff receive any training in leaseholders lease's and matters as our service charge account shows management/and admin as the highest charge . Also who monitors repairs and horticulture. as these services leave a lot to be desired at Cromwell House.

Reply

The Leasehold services team attend regular training sessions including the annual Home Ownership conference which covers leasehold legislation issues e.g. terms of the lease. If the Tenancy teams require any assistance with the lease they will discuss this with the Leasehold services team for advice and guidance.

Secondary monitoring of horticultural works and litter picking is carried out by the Caretaker managers, Neighbourhood inspectors and caretakers. The inspectors also undertake visual inspections of play equipment on a weekly basis. They have been trained on Visual Playground inspection and will report back any repair issues.

Caretakers also report to their managers on any areas where grass has not been cut. However, we do acknowledge recent problems with our grass cutting contractor which we are taking action to address. Managers visit sites with the Green Spaces monitors on a regular basis identifying sites as do Inspectors. Rectifications are sent through to the monitors and chased up.

Managers and inspectors have had training with Keep Britain Tidy (Local Environmental Quality training) allowing them to score the street scene and to report failings to the contact centre and Veolia.

Communal repairs are reported and inspectors will visit areas to see if work is done if not then it will be re-reported

Repairs are monitored by the Repairs team, managed by Lorraine Smout Head of Service and the Horticulture service by the Contracts team, the manager is Barry Lambton and can be contacted to report any issues. If there are specific problems with maintenance at Cromwell House, please advise me and I will be happy to investigate.

From Samir Dwaser

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration and Planning

Question No.

PQ085-16

There's been a lot on the internet about the Council having a list of sites it's selling off in secret. As a Sanderstead resident, I'm really concerned that one of those sites might be the Sanderstead Road car park that me and my family use often. Does the Council have any plans to develop that site and will it be consulting residents before it does?

Reply

One of the greatest challenges that Croydon faces is the provision of new homes, particularly affordable ones. We are a borough faced with a severe housing need. New homes are needed not only by those on our housing waiting list and those in emergency, overcrowded or temporary accommodation, but also for those who are trying to save to buy their own homes. Many of our daughters and sons cannot see a way of getting on to the housing ladder and instead remain at homes or pay high rents, preventing them from saving.

With various factors generating ever greater demand for housing, it is clear that the council needs to take action. It cannot be right that Croydon children are having to live in Bed and Breakfast accommodation, that we know can affect their education, health and future opportunities. It is for this reason the council has set out a hugely ambitious agenda for increasing the supply of new homes, both private and affordable, with a particular emphasis on local lettings and sales

As encouraged by central government, we need to release the potential for new homes to be delivered on council owned land and we have set up a development company, Brick by Brick, to help to deliver this. Brick by Brick are currently developing proposals for various sites across the borough and engaging with local communities accordingly.

The sites that have come forward to date are shown on the Council's website via www.croydon.gov.uk/newhomes. Further sites will be announced in the near future. We will be informing key stakeholders and people locally of proposals first and details will be uploaded onto our website.

From Mr Pierre Morcos

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration and Planning

Question No.

PQ086-15

How have community engagement specialists properly managed the programme of engagement with insufficient notice given for public consultation/residents views to be heard?

Which plots in Purley are considered? Green spaces at Montpelier Road have been used by the residents for over 20 years, significant part of Purley's publicly owned assets.

Reply

One of the greatest challenges that Croydon faces is the provision of new homes, particularly affordable ones. We are a borough, faced with a severe housing need. New homes are needed not only by those on our housing waiting list and those in emergency, overcrowded or temporary accommodation but also for those who are trying to save to buy their own homes. Many of our daughters and sons cannot see a way of getting on to the housing ladder and instead remain at home or pay high rents, preventing them from saving.

With various factors generating ever greater demand for housing, it is clear that the council needs to take action. It cannot be right that Croydon children are having to live in Bed & Breakfast accommodation, that we know can affect their education, health and future opportunities. It is for this reason the council has set out a hugely ambitious agenda for increasing the supply of new homes, both private and affordable, with a particular emphasis on local lettings and sales

As encouraged by central government, we need to release the potential for new homes to be delivered on council owned land and we have established a development company, Brick by Brick, to help us to deliver this. At Montpelier Road, Brick by Brick are proposing a development with a mix of flats and houses of both private and affordable tenures. The proposals are at a relatively early stage and Brick by Brick are engaging with the local community, and with the Local Planning Authority through the pre application process.

The approach to communicating with local residents on development sites is as follows. Firstly, the Council write to properties within a 50m radius of the site advising them of the need for new homes, the proposal to transfer the land in question to Brick by Brick and introducing Newman Francis, who have been commissioned by Brick by

Brick to lead community engagement. Newman Francis then hand deliver letters to these properties to advertise a presentation and drop-in session regarding the scheme.

This approach was used at Montpelier Road and the first engagement event for this site was held on 6th July 2016. There was discussion on a variety of issues such as transport impact and parking. Feedback from the engagement processes will inform the design of the scheme as it progresses through the planning process.

The other development sites that have been publicised to date are shown on the Council's website at www.croydon.gov.uk/newhomes. Further sites will be announced in the near future and we will be informing key stakeholders and people locally of proposals first. Details will then be uploaded onto our website.

From Miss Alison Tong

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration & Planning

Question No.

PQ088-16

The latest edition of "Your Croydon" states the Council is committed to protecting its green spaces, a statement that is repeated time and again through many published Council policies (evidence can be provided if you cannot recall your own policies), therefore why does the recently released list of sites earmarked for housing development directly contradict this statement as evidenced by the proposal to build on one of these open green spaces in Montpelier Road?

Reply

Please see the response to PQ083-16

From Mr Mick Hewish

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration & Planning

Question No.

PQ089-16

How can the Council propose Residential Development on land that can only be accessed by a Private Road?

What are the physical differences between these two sites, that are to lose their MOL status protection completely, and the adjacent Shirley Oaks Playing Field / woods and site 548 that are being given Local Green Space protection instead of MOL. These four areas of land are maintained in the same manner and used by Shirley Residents as recreational areas.

It is important to realise that the sites 541 and 542 also provide the recreational areas for the adjacent five blocks of flats on Shirley Oaks Road which have no gardens at all.

Reply

The access arrangements to a site are a matter that any landowner or developer will have to negotiate with any party that owned the road or land required to access the site. The fact that the site requires access onto a private (un-adopted) road does not prejudice the principle of development of a site nor does it preclude the making of an application for planning permission.

Local Green Space must be demonstrably special to a local community and hold a particular local significance, for example because of their beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of their wildlife. These two criteria are part of the national policy on designating Local Green Space as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.

In considering the national policy for Local Green Space designation Croydon Council has applied criteria to define 'demonstrably special' and 'particular local significance'. The criteria have been consulted upon twice, in October/November 2013 and in November/December 2015 and no comments were received suggesting alternative criteria should be used. The criteria used are that sites designated as Local Green Space must be at least three of the following or be publically accessible and at least one of the following:

- Historic Park or Garden;
- Community garden;

- Children's play area;
- Tranquil area;
- Natural and semi-natural open space;
- Cemetery, church yard or burial ground;
- Site of Nature Conservation Importance; or
- Playing field or recreation ground.

Site 548 was reassessed against these criteria and, because it is largely set back from the road running through the Shirley Oaks estate, it is a tranquil area, which combined with its public access means that it can be designated as Local Green Space.

The Shirley Oaks Playing Field/woods contains a continuous area of natural and semi-natural open space, is marked on Ordnance Survey maps as being a playing field (although no trace of it can be found on the ground), and is in part a tranquil area set back from the road.

The sites either side of Shirley Oaks Road (sites 541 and 542) are considered to incidental open space around existing development containing discontinuous pockets of scrub in places. There are many such examples of spaces like these in Croydon, none of which have been proposed as Local Green Space. As they are next to the road they are not tranquil, and they do not meet any of the other criteria for designation as Local Green Space.

From Mick Hewish

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration & Planning

Question No.

PQ090-16

All the Sites in Shirley Oaks contain areas of Nature Conservation plus they also form part of a Green Chain. These are two of the criteria for retaining Metropolitan Open Land. You now intend changing two of the sites, Shirley Oaks Playing Field and woods and Site 548 to Local Green Spaces, the other sites including 541 and 542 lose all protection, the only sites in the Borough to do so. What are the physical differences between these four sites which are maintained identically and used by Croydon residents as recreational spaces, oh yes, yet another of the criteria for MOL status?

Reply

There are no designated Sites of Nature Conservation Importance in the Shirley Oaks area. None of the land proposed for de-designation from Metropolitan Open Land or re-designation to Local Green Space is designated as a Site of Nature Conservation Importance.

It is correct that the land as a whole currently forms part of a green chain, being at the southern end of a chain that extends as far as Beckenham Cemetery. However, being part of a green chain is not, on its own, justification for designation as Metropolitan Open Land. To be designated as Metropolitan Open Land the land would have to:

- Contribute to the physical structure of London; or
- Contain features or landscapes of national or metropolitan importance (such as a Registered Historic Park and Garden, a Site of Special Scientific Interest, a Site of Nature Conservation Importance of metropolitan grade); or
- Include open air facilities which serve the whole or significant parts of London (such as a sports stadium or outdoor concert venue).

The land does not include open air facilities which serve the whole or significant parts of London and it does not contain features or landscapes of national or metropolitan importance. In addition, because it is separated from the wider open area made up of Ashburton Playing Fields, South Norwood Country Park and Beckenham Cemetery by Shirley Oaks Hospital and its car park it does not contribute to the physical structure of London. Currently the car park of the hospital is designated Metropolitan Open Land. On the ground there is a physical barrier between Ashburton Playing Fields and the land south of Shirley Oaks Hospital, it not being possible to walk directly from one area to the other because of a fence separating the hospital car park from Ashburton Playing Fields.

The recreational value of the land is not, specifically, a criteria for designation as Metropolitan Open Land. However, it can be a criteria for designation as Local Green Space.

Local Green Space must be demonstrably special to a local community and hold a particular local significance, for example because of their beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of their wildlife. These two criteria are part of the national policy on designating Local Green Space as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.

In considering the national policy for Local Green Space designation Croydon Council has applied criteria to define 'demonstrably special' and 'particular local significance'. The criteria have been consulted upon twice, in October/November 2013 and in November/December 2015 and no comments were received suggesting alternative criteria should be used. The criteria used are that sites designated as Local Green Space must be at least three of the following or be publically accessible and at least one of the following:

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- Community garden;
- Children's play area;
- Tranquil area;
- Natural and semi-natural open space;
- Cemetery, church yard or burial ground;
- Site of Nature Conservation Importance; or
- Playing field or recreation ground.

Site 548 was reassessed against these criteria and, because it is largely set back from the road running through the Shirley Oaks estate, it is a tranquil area, which combined with its public access means that it can be designated as Local Green Space.

The sites either side of Shirley Oaks Road (sites 541 and 542) are considered to incidental open space around existing development. There are many such examples of spaces like these in Croydon, none of which have been proposed as Local Green Space. As they are next to the road they are not tranquil, and they do not meet any of the other criteria for designation as Local Green Space.

CQ325-16 **from Councillor Helen Pollard**

Councillor Timothy Godfrey

Can the Cabinet Member tell me where the money for cycle routes for parks has come from? Is this investment in cycle routes linked to any other funding for Croydon? If so, what is the other funding for and how much is it? If we don't go ahead with the cycle routes, what will the money (earmarked for the routes) be used for. Will we lose other funding if we don't go ahead with the cycle routes?

Reply

Croydon Council is committed to encouraging cycling as a healthy, cost-effective and environmentally friendly form of transport.

From 2004 onwards, Croydon has received £500,000 funding from Sustrans (a cycling charity) and £1.1m funding from Transport for London as part of a project to improve walking and cycling routes in the borough. This project is called Connect2 and is designed to create a cycle network connecting green spaces between the Wandle Valley and the Addington Hills.

The scheme has so far provided the core route between Wandle Park and Park Hill Recreation Ground including:

- Pedestrian and cycle crossings of Park Lane, the A232 Croydon Flyover, Roman Way and Barclay Road
- A walking route along the tram system between Wandle Park and Ampere Way Tramstops.
- New zebra crossings on Waddon Road and Charles Street

We have also provided the following parts of the wider network:

- The cycle route in Phase 2 of Addiscombe Railway Park

To complete the 'core route' it is proposed to create:

- New cycle routes in three of Croydon's Parks (Wandle Park, Park Hill Recreation Ground and Lloyd Park)
- An 'on road' cycle link between Park Hill and Lloyd Park using Chichester Road and Deepdene Avenue
- A further cycle link between the New South Quarter development and Wandle Park (across the Tram System)
- A widened footway /cycleway between New South Quarter and Waddon Marsh Tram Stop

With regards to the cycle routes in Parks, Croydon has a duty to consult when considering these proposed changes. We are asking people to provide their views about our proposals and how the proposed changes might affect people. Croydon Council will review responses from the questionnaire and decide whether to proceed with these proposals or incorporate comments and suggestions into the proposals.

There is some flexibility on where to locate these cycle routes. The funding is not available to use on other projects.

If we don't implement the cycle routes the £550,000 funding from Sustrans would be

at risk as completion of the scheme is a condition of this funding.

The £1.1m funding from Transport for London would not be at risk. This funding is not conditional on the whole route being completed.

CQ327-16 **from Councillor Helen Pollard**

Councillor Timothy Godfrey

Does Croydon Council have plans to stop the use of the harmful 'Round Up' glyphosate herbicide chemicals in the borough?

Reply

The councils current contracts do facilitate the use of herbicide chemicals as part of the services to manage weed growth, products like Glyphosate are subject to a rigorous and highly regulated approvals process before being permitted for use in the UK. The manufacturers are also required to provide "Environmental Information Sheets" to users. Croydon continues to actively sought to reduce its use of herbicides and is regularly monitoring the industry for changes and improved products.

CQ320-16

from Councillor Mario Creatura

Councillor Mark Watson

1. 'Tourism Concern' has been noted by Cllr Mark Watson as being the 12th accredited London Living Wage employer in Croydon. Could you please confirm the total head count of this organisation?
2. Records from 2014/15 seem to indicate Cllr Mark Watson is the sole employee of this organisation. Could you please confirm whether or not this is the case?
3. Could you please detail the criteria and process by which the Council judges whether or not an organisation is a London Living Wage employer?

Reply

1. Tourism Concern currently employs four staff, three in the UK and one in India. There are an additional 9 Board Members. This information is easily obtained from their website
2. See above. However I would encourage all organisations, both large and small, to become accredited Living Wage Employers – the fact that only a handful of organisation in Croydon are accredited is disappointing, so I hope that by raising awareness of accreditation more employers will follow suit. We will be promoting accreditation over the summer and hope to see 100 organisations accredited by the start of Living Wage Week.
3. The Living Wage Foundation assesses whether an organisation is a London Living Wage employer; the Council is not involved in this process. Organisations are required to complete an assessment form, which is reviewed by the Foundation and accreditation awarded if criteria, including if all contracted staff are paid the LLW, is met. This information is easily obtained from their website.

It is very disappointing that the councillor is so unaware of the Living Wage Foundation and the process of accreditation; however I would hope he would follow my example and encourage his employer to become accredited.

From Mrs Bonita Clark

Councillor Alisa Flemming

Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Learning

Question No.

PQ091-16

Why are you not taking this Anti Smoking Song, (Kids telling Kids), into Schools?

ANTI SMOKING

Campaign is backed by the Met Police, Croydon and London Mayors, all the Croydon Education Depts, and G.A.S.P. Please listen to our anti smoking song aimed at stopping children from starting, called 'You Don't Look Cool' by Teenagers on iTunes and You Tube. It's Kids telling Kids, you don't look 'Cool', you look a 'Fool', when you smoke.

Please pass this song on to all children everywhere.

'You Don't Look Cool', by Teenagers.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pleRJULTa1w>

Reply

Thank you for your question. The council has several initiatives in place to support schools and other groups to reduce the number of children and young people who take up smoking.

Croydon schools were told about the song approximately 12 months ago following a meeting between our healthy schools coordinator and those who created the song. Information was shared both through the weekly bulletin to schools and through the healthy schools co-ordinator network meetings. In common with all other resources, however, it is for schools themselves to determine with which programmes they engage. In general, we point schools in the direction of anti-smoking materials and we have a series of programmes in place that help to reduce smoking in young people. These include:

Healthy schools: a schools programme that promotes the links between health, behaviour and achievement through several areas including PSHE (personal, social and health education). This programme not only provides information about the harms of tobacco but also teaches skills that enable young people to make informed and healthy choices.

Smoking cessation services: Services are available throughout the borough to help young people to quit smoking through offering several weeks of behavioural support

and intervention.

A safer environment: The council provides support to traders to meet their statutory responsibility not to sell age restricted products such as cigarettes and other tobacco products to people under 18 years.

I am happy of course to resend the link in regards to the smoking song to schools; and ask them to take the opportunity to play it to students. Perhaps a focus on Primary school age would be best for a targeted approach. Please let me know which you would prefer and I will be happy to assist.

CQ324-16

from Councillor Mario Creatura

Councillor Simon Hall

Could the Cabinet Member please answer the following questions on the latest edition of 'Your Croydon', sent to residents recently:

1. How much was the total production cost of the magazine? (How much to print, design, write, photography commissioning etc)
2. How many FTE Council employees were involved in its production? How many external FTE were involved in its production?
3. How many copies were printed?
4. How many households in Croydon received this edition?
5. How was the magazine distributed? Is by post or courier, please outline the cost of this service.
6. Are there any areas of Croydon that didn't receive the magazine? If so, what were the reasons?
7. Does the Council collect any data on the efficiency or popularity of this medium of communication?
8. In September 2010 the Government issued guidance on restricting free Council publications, does the Council believe it's broken these restrictions with this publication? <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-rules-rein-in-town-hall-freesheets-and-use-of-lobbyists>

Reply

1. How much was the total production cost of the magazine? (How much to print, design, write, photography commissioning etc)

£8,613.86

2. How many FTE Council employees were involved in its production? How many external FTE were involved in its production?

No employees were employed full time in its production.

Your Croydon, the council's magazine is just one of many platforms that the council's media relations team use to help inform residents about the council's plans, policies, decisions and the council services that are available to them. There is a digital version that can be accessed via issu.com/yourcroydon and will be delivered to Croydon residents as a print version twice a year - in July and December.

No 'external FTE' were involved in its production.

3. How many copies were printed?

156,000

4. How many households in Croydon received this edition?

Delivered to 155,551 addresses

5. How was the magazine distributed? Is by post or courier, please outline the cost of this service.

London Letterbox Marketing leaflet distributors

£12,910.73

6. Are there any areas of Croydon that didn't receive the magazine? If so, what were the reasons?

The distributors have informed us that they were not able to gain access to five blocks of flats. The reason cited was no answer on the entry system.

7. Does the Council collect any data on the efficiency or popularity of this medium of communication?

We will be collecting data via our Get Involved resident participation site and residents surveys. We have already had some very positive feedback from a number of residents who attended our GoOn Croydon digital workshops after reading about them in our magazine.

8. In September 2010 the Government issued guidance on restricting free Council publications, does the Council believe it's broken these restrictions with this publication? <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-rules-rein-in-town-hall-freesheets-and-use-of-lobbyists>

No. The guidance suggests that 'councils do not publish newspaper newspapers in direct competition to local press. They should not appear more than quarterly and should only include material directly related to council services.'

The council does not publish a newspaper that is in direct competition to local press, we publish a magazine that contains material related to the council and its services. Like most local authorities we do not publish more than bi-monthly, which is highly unlikely to have any effect on local newspapers.

We are fully supportive of the local press – a thriving local media based on quality journalism is essential for local democracy. Here in Croydon we are lucky to have two active local weekly newspapers, but we do not and should not rely on them to publicise everything that the council is doing.

Local authorities, however, do have duty to inform their residents about the council's plans, its decision making and the services and help available to them. Residents should be able to feel well informed about their council and engaged with local democracy.

The print edition will be published twice a year