

## QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

<b>Question Number</b>	<b>Question asked by Councillor:</b>	<b>Subject</b>
<b>CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN GREEN CROYDON</b> <b>Councillor Stuart Collins</b>		
CQ127-18	Creatura, M	Recycling Box Collection
<b>CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE &amp; SPORT</b> <b>Councillor Oliver Lewis</b>		
CQ129-18	Canning, R	Wandle Park Gates
<b>CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE &amp; RESOURCES</b> <b>Councillor Simon Hall</b>		
CQ130-18	Ward, R	Croydon and Arnhem

**CQ127-18 from Councillor Mario Creatura**

**Councillor Stuart Collins**

Throughout September, the Council shared widely instructions to residents asking them to leave their old recycling boxes outside the front of their properties for collection from 24th September.



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These instructions, and tweets that followed, also said: ‘Collections continue for the next week so leave them at the front of your property’.



Here's a Council tweet of 17th October saying 'the collection of old recycling bins is still underway'. This is approaching a month after the date residents were told their boxes would be collected. The tweet also says 'if haven't had your boxes collected yet, please leave them at the front of your property, crews are working hard to collect them as soon as possible.'



Your Croydon ✓  
@yourcroydon



The collection of old recycling boxes is still underway - here's some at Factory Lane ready to be recycled! If you haven't had your boxes collected yet, please leave them at the front of your property, crews are working hard to collect them as soon as possible.

[#CroydonRecycles](#)



With these facts in mind, could the Council please answer the following questions:

- What was the process by which Veolia were tasked with picking up the boxes? On a normal collection round, a special collection just for these items or another?
- What deadline was given to Veolia for them to complete the collection of the old boxes?
- Given experience of many residents on the ground, why was official messaging to residents not accurate? You said they would be collected within a fortnight of WC 24th September, they weren't. What process went wrong within the Council that led to false information being shared to residents?
- Residents are still contacting councillors about their recycling bins not being collected. What has caused the significant delay in collection? Will Veolia be sanctioned as a result of these delays?

- How many Councillors have contacted the Council to ask that residents' old recycling bins be removed?
- Have any of the old recycling boxes been reported to the Council as fly-tipping? If yes, how many?
- As many thousands of residents put them out on 24th September as instructed, and given many thousands still remain uncollected, at what point do they count towards Council targets for fly-tipping?
- When does the Council expect that the boxes will all be collected, and will it be communicating the new date and instructions to residents?

## **Reply**

It's a shame Cllr Creatura continues to only find fault in the council's ambition to boost recycling across the borough to over 50%, I have always stated that the rollout of the new kerbside collection service will be challenging and we expected at least 12 weeks of disruption. The collection of boxes has taken longer than expected but I can confirm Veolia has completed a collection of the whole borough. If individual properties have been missed I ask residents to report these to the waste services team who will arrange for these to be collected or alternative should residents wish to keep the boxes they can.

I would like to thank residents for their patience whilst we moved to the new waste service.

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**CQ129-18 from Councillor Robert Canning****Councillor Oliver Lewis**

What arrangements are in place, and what monitoring is undertaken, to ensure that the gates to Wandle Park are opened and closed each day at the designated times?

**Reply**

The opening and closing of the parks is part of the specification of the grounds maintenance contract with Idverde. Adherence to these timeframes is checked by supervisors from Idverde and the council's own contract monitoring officers. Due to the number of parks and open spaces that require locking and unlocking, it is not possible to monitor each individual occurrence, however, if you believe that one of the parks are not being opened on time, this can be reported via the parks inbox at [parks@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:parks@croydon.gov.uk) and an officer will arrange some specific monitoring to ensure the opening times are being upheld.

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**CQ130-18 from Councillor Robert Ward****Councillor Simon Hall**

What are the plans for exchanges between Croydon and Arnhem over the next year?

**Reply**

There are a two high profile exchanges between Croydon and Arnhem planned next year.

2019 marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Operation Market Garden, the Second World War battle to capture and hold bridges over the River Rhine. Even 75 years after the event these commemorations are of great importance to the people of Arnhem. As is traditional, the Mayor of Croydon has been invited to Arnhem to attend and take part in the commemoration of this battle over the weekend of 20-22 September. During the commemoration the Mayor of Croydon will lay a wreath on behalf of the people of Croydon in memory of those who died, including the many Dutch civilians who supported the allied operation and who suffered retribution as a result.

There are also plans for an event in Croydon to remember and celebrate the continued link between the towns and our people of Croydon and Arnhem. Prior to the refurbishment of the Fairfield Halls this link was recognised through the naming of the Arnhem Gallery and following the re-opening of the Fairfield Halls that a link with Arnhem will remain. A civic and cultural event, open to the public, is planned to take place on 12 October.

The Mayor of Arnhem will be invited to attend as the guest of honour and will, alongside the Mayor of Croydon re-dedicate the Foyer in Fairfield Halls as the Arnhem Foyer. Alongside this civic ceremony, there will be a cultural element with performances by local dancers and musicians. It is also hoped that performers from Arnhem will attend and perform. The intention is for there to also be some educational workshops for residents about the link between the two towns.