



Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Tony Newman January 2019

R.I.P. Cllr Maggie Mansell

It is with great sadness that we received the news of the passing of one of our most dedicated, compassionate and long-serving councillors, Maggie Mansell. Maggie helped thousands of people and made a real difference, particularly in the field of health. She was campaigning right up until the end. We will remember her passion for equality and justice, her caring nature and her unswerving commitment to our community. She will be sadly missed, and our thoughts are with her family.



Creative Enterprise Zones (CEZ)

It gives me great pride that Croydon has been named among the capital's first Creative Enterprise Zones (CEZ) announced by the Mayor of London in December. The award of £500,000 will be used to promote the growth of arts through provision of space, skills and support, policy and community. Some of the exciting projects we are working on include:

- Developing Croydon as a music city – a place that encourages and nurtures emerging talent, breaking down barriers to success in the music industry
- Launching a pioneering new cultural internship programme, offering young people paid work placements with leading national and local arts organisations
- Creating a subsidy scheme for under 25s looking for studio space, which will cover up to 40% of the cost
- Encouraging creative businesses to move to Croydon, through the introduction of business rate relief for creative start-ups and those relocating to Croydon

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- Collating an online list of available properties for creative businesses, and launching a start-up incubator programme providing tailored business support.



Fairfield Halls

Work continues on the Fairfield Halls ahead of the opening in September of this year. I was fortunate enough earlier this month to visit Phoenix Piano Studios with Neil Chandler, our venue Director, to see for myself the beautiful pianos we are going to have at Fairfield when it opens. Pianos are being provided as part of sponsorship secured for the venue by the operator, something our audiences, residents and young people are going to benefit from in particular.

The next few weeks will see a series of further exciting announcements on Fairfield Halls, the launch of the latest website at the end of this week and more tickets going on sale. There are also great plans for the renaming of the foyer space to become the Arnhem Foyer in honour of our historical relations with Arnhem, and we will be

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inviting colleagues and artists over from Arnhem to help us rededicate this space in style later this year.



Mayor's Growth Fund

There was good news in December for the residents and businesses of South Norwood and Woodside. A bid to the GLA to deliver high streets where local businesses thrive and job opportunities are created across both wards was awarded £1.16m from the Mayor of London's Good Growth Fund. Croydon Council and South Norwood Town Team We Love SE25 led an engagement programme through summer and autumn 2018 to develop the ideas with the community for the three-year programme of projects. The GLA funding will be matched by a further £1.16m from Croydon Council to make a total budget of £2.3m. The project will create a more resilient town centre, reflecting the creativity and diversity of the South Norwood community.

Network rail

Thanks to our successful lobbying, central government has given Network Rail the funding it needs to continue to develop its major upgrade proposals for the Brighton Mainline. The project has just passed a major milestone with the concluding of the first round of consultation. Network Rail's consultation highlighted the challenge

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facing Croydon, London and the Coast to Capital region if action is not taken. Croydon is one of the busiest parts of Britain's rail network with projected annual passenger journeys set to increase to 90 million by the early 2030's. The consultation sets out to address this by:

- Rebuilding; to greatly enlarge East Croydon Station with two additional platforms, a much larger concourse with greatly improved facilities for passengers and better connections with the town centre and other transport links. We are also working with Network Rail to ensure that further employment space and homes are delivered directly at the new station.
- Separating the lines to London Bridge and Victoria at the 'Selhurst triangle', by removing the existing junctions and building new flyovers and dive-unders.

We continue to ensure that the benefits to Croydon are maximised whilst also ensuring that the interests of local residents and businesses are given the utmost importance and consideration during the development of these proposals.

Legacy Onside

Alisa and I recently visited the onside site to see how the building works were progressing.



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I am pleased to update that the final building work is scheduled to be completed on 22 March 2019 with the full grand opening taking place in June 2019. There will be a period of “soft opening” where groups of young people from schools and community organisations will be invited to visit the Youth Zone as part of an engagement process. The successful appointment of Barnabas Shelbourne as CEO has seen excellent links with school and the community being developed. The Young People’s Development Group is very active in Croydon and have been part of the appointment of senior staff members and will continue to do so for the wider team. The Group have selected the colours of the climbing wall and the new staff uniform keeping young people at the core of the project. Legacy was also represented at the recent Lord Mayor’s Show by a large number of the Croydon YPDG who had a fantastic time.

Leader’s Diary for December to January

- London Councils Leader’s Committee
- Croydon Tech Forum
- London Pensions Fund Authority Board Meeting
- Coast to Capital Extraordinary Board Meeting
- Cultural Enterprise Zone Launch
- LGA Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board
- LSP Board Meeting
- SLP Leaders Board
- Fairfield’s Hall Launch
- Local Strategic Partnership Board
- Violence Reduction Unit Conference
- Scrutiny Q&A
- Develop Croydon Lunch

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