

Homes & Gateway Services

Cabinet Member Bulletin

Councillor Alison Butler

March 2020

LATEST NEWS

HRA Major Works Programme

The HRA major works programme continues to make improvements to the Council's existing stock. A number of schemes are onsite for completion 20/21. These include

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98-176 College Green - a sheltered block where works include the installation of sprinklers, new ground floor homes, new boilers, replacement windows and roof, enclosing of the undercroft and rain screen cladding. @ £4.8m spend

56a-76d Chertsey Crescent - General needs block with @£4.5m is to be spent hard and soft landscaping, lift upgrades, ground source heating, windows, roof and rain screen cladding.

Longheath Gardens – Estate wide external improvements will to 17 blocks including replacement copper roofs, concrete repairs, balcony and balustrade replacement, walkway coverings and external decorations costing @£7m



AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON

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Launch of Somewhere Safe to Stay hub launch

It has long been our ambition to have 24 hour all-round provision for our street homeless to add to the numerous services we are already offering.

The service was soft-launched in November with 8 rough sleepers and officially opened along with Roy Hodgson from CPFC in January. The hub includes shared sleeping quarters, female-only shared bedrooms, a private room, a kitchen and a medical room and will offer up to 15 people a bed for up to 72 hours and a same-day holistic assessment of their financial, health and housing circumstances.

Rough sleepers, or people about to sleep rough, will be referred to the hub by the council's homelessness assessment team and partners including Croydon Reach and Crisis. They then receive help into settled accommodation and one-to-one help with their finances and job skills. The stories given by some of the residents who have already been assisted were truly moving.

To refer rough sleepers, or for rough sleepers to self-refer, contact StreetLink by calling 0300 500 0914, visiting their website or downloading their app on iOS or Android.

To help rough sleepers aged under 18, contact the council's emergency duty team at Bernard Weatherill House, 8 Mint Walk, Croydon, CR0 1EA or call the Metropolitan Police.

Gateway Universal Credit Assistance

Over the course of 2019/20 the Gateway team have assisted 6,141 households to maximise their benefits and over 900 households affected by the benefit cap.

1,274 households have been supported with universal support which is now being delivered in partnership with the Citizen Advice Bureau who provide assistance with Universal Credit claims and budgeting.

The Discretionary Support Fund has assisted 938 households through discretionary housing payments to remain in their homes or to move somewhere more affordable and 1,097 households have been supported through Croydon discretionary scheme.

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Croydon Social Lettings



Now that Croydon Lettings (Social Lettings Agency) has been established, work has been undertaken to increase Croydon Lettings profile with the web page being completely rebranded:

<https://www.croydon.gov.uk/housing/yourhome/croydon-lettings/why-choose-us>

84 new tenancies have been signed to the SLA and the team are working with 170 landlords across the borough ensuring all properties are rented at the Local Housing Allowance rate negotiating rents down by a total of £58k.

Community-led Housing

Our next site will be in Shrublands and events are being held in February and March for those who want to find out more. The Shrublands site earmarked for development is a council-owned garage block off Shrublands Avenue next to an existing all-weather games pitch and green open space, neither of which will be removed.

The Shrublands site is the second proposed location in the borough for community-led homes. Crystal Palace Community Land Trust (CLT) was chosen last August to develop its own low-carbon affordable homes at The Lawns in Upper Norwood after winning a council-run competition. They are working with local residents to decide details, such as the type and number of homes and design, ahead of a planning application being submitted later this year.

As with Crystal Palace CLT, the eventual winning bidders for the Shrublands site will receive design and development support throughout the process from the council and Brick By Brick.

For more information, visit the [Shaping Shrublands website](#).

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Parchmore Centre Community Food Stop

The launch of our latest community connect food stop will take place at the Parchmore Centre, Thornton Heath on Wednesday 26th February from 3 – 5 pm. Members will pay £3.50 pw for £15/£20 worth of shopping. The service is aimed at those affected by – welfare reform, rent arrears, financial or employment difficulties or who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Along with the food offering they will be offered – welfare rights advice, housing advice, personal budget support, debt management, landlord liaison, help finding work and wellbeing services.