

Meeting of Croydon Communities Consortium 22nd February 2022 via Zoom

Discussion: Refuse Collections, Recycling and Fly-Tipping

Councillor Scott Roche, Cabinet Member for Streets & Environment attended.
Steve Iles, Director for Sustainable Communities sent his apologies.

Refuse Collections

Kerbside collections: Bins are left on the footway rather than returned to the property. This is an issue for those who are visually impaired, wheelchair users, those with buggies, etc. Food caddies, green / blue boxes and bins are being damaged as they are thrown back into the gardens and the delay in getting a replacement is lengthy. Cllr. Roche was aware of these issues. The contractor should be returning bins for assisted collections. Missed collections to communal bins are constantly reported but nothing is done to address this problem.

Missed collections: – Concerns regarding missed collections when the website shows that the bins have been collected, meaning it is not possible to report as missed.

Re-Use and Recycling Centres

It was not clear if the Purley site is due to be closed down.

A Borough the size of Croydon needs the three sites. Factory Lane is often gridlocked, New Addington is a long way for other parts of the Borough that would use the other two sites. Reducing the number of sites will just add to the pollution with people having to travel further and increase the traffic outside the other sites or increase fly-tipping. Pedestrian access had been stopped at all three sites. Vans are also severely restricted, even if driven by a resident carrying household waste and recycling, and only possible at Factory Lane.

New Addington (Fishers Farm) - Residents have been told that they are only allowed one visit per day and it was noted that generally, residents visited when having a clear out so may visit multiple times in a short time period then not again for some while so restricting to one a day was not helpful and may lead to fly-tipping. Cllr. Roche agreed to check across all three sites. **Action:**

Cllr. Roche

Fly-Tipping Hotspots

Fieldway Estate, New Addington where the myriad of alleyways compounds the problems, Grant Road and Inglis Road Addiscombe, Lower Addiscombe Road and Shrublands Estate Shirley. The bigger issue is if there are multiple hotspots on one estate.

Possible solutions - Funding for CCTV and dummy cameras is needed. Cllr. Roche explained that more creative solutions need to be explored to tackle fly-tipping. Officers need to react quickly.

Private Tenants and Landlords also contribute to the fly-tipping at end of lease periods. There was a Landlord Licensing Scheme in Croydon but this was not renewed as the application to renew it was rejected.

Leafletting Pilot: A previous leafletting pilot, developed between residents and the Council, had been effective in greatly reducing fly-tipping where the fly-tipping was done by neighbours. Cllr. Roche had raised issues like this, including where vehicle registrations had been captured.

No fly-tipping signs are ineffective, they merely add to the general street clutter. Better use of Street Champions is a Council policy that Cllr. Roche backs.

Changes at Re-Use and Recycling Centres could be contributing to the fly-tipping situation and Christmas tree collections are far too late.

Building Waste Fly-Tipping: This is happening across the Borough. Cllr. Roche advised to keep reporting every case. The Council uses reports to create a heat map to ascertain trends and target responses accordingly.