



Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Tony Newman December 2017

Latest News

Tram Memorial

A year has now passed since the Sandilands tram tragedy occurred, but that fateful day remains etched on Croydon's mind. I am pleased the community came together to pause, reflect and remember those who lost their lives and were deeply affected by this terrible incident. Croydon will never forget.



Hundreds of people attended the civic ceremony we hosted on Central Parade in New Addington when the permanent memorial was unveiled for the first time in honour of the seven who died and others affected by the tragedy. The local community came together to remember and pledged to continue to support each other in the challenging times that lay ahead.

As well as members of the public, the New Addington ceremony was attended by myself, our local councillors, local charities, members of the emergency services and volunteers from organisations including the Samaritans, Victim Support and British Red Cross, who helped in the aftermath one year ago. The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan and Sarah Jones, MP for Croydon Central were also there to comfort and stand by the community.



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The event followed a private ceremony earlier that morning close to the site at Sandilands, for the families who lost loved ones. During their visit a permanent memorial plinth inscribed with the names of their relatives and the date of the incident was uncovered, and a minute's silence was also held. Both memorials were designed in consultation with the families of those who sadly died.

Westfield

The £1.4bn redevelopment proposal for the Whitgift Shopping Centre by the Croydon Partnership – the joint venture between Westfield and Hammerson – has unanimously been given the green light by members of our planning committee.

This is fantastic news for Croydon and we have been doing everything we can to bring the redevelopment of the Whitgift Centre to fruition so local people can benefit from its wealth of offerings, including the creation of 7,000 new jobs.

The new homes and the thousands of new jobs this development will bring shows investors are rightly confident about Croydon as a place to live, work and spend free time. I am delighted contractors will be on site in 2019 to start the exciting transformation of the heart of our town.

I'm pleased we have reached this major milestone in the delivery of a world class retail and leisure facility and it's another step to reinforcing Croydon's growing reputation as one of London's top destinations.

As well as thousands of construction jobs, the exciting mixed use scheme will bring with it thousands of other roles in over 300 shops, restaurants, cafés and leisure facilities including a multi-screen cinema and bowling alley which will cement Croydon's reputation as one of the best destinations in the capital to live, work and play.



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We worked closely with the Croydon Partnership, the Greater London Authority (GLA), and Greg Hands MP the Minister for London, to ensure the scheme progressed as quickly as possible and I just want to say a huge thank you to everyone that helped make this happen.

Children's Improvement Plan

Our improvement plan is taking shape and extra resources and support are already focused on the frontline.

The priorities for this plan are to ensure that we:

- Help families be healthy and resilient and able to maximise their life chances and independence
- Create a place where people feel safe and are safe

Croydon's ambition is to deliver good services for our children and young people, however we recognise that 'getting to good' will be a three year journey and we will

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have to work with our partners to make sure this happens. We'll be using the feedback we expect to hear from children, staff and partners to keep us on track.

All of this work is to make sure that: 'All Children and young people in Croydon will be safe, healthy and happy, and will aspire to be the best they can be. The future is theirs.'

The Leader's Ministerial meeting with Rt Hon Brandon Lewis

On 16 November, I made my way to Victoria for a meeting with Rt Hon Brandon Lewis, the Minister of State for Immigration accompanied by Cllr Simon Hall, Richard Simpson and Philip Segurola. It was a positive and constructive meeting with the Minister thanking me for all the work Croydon has done with the Home Office on unaccompanied asylum seekers.

Whilst I welcomed his recognition of what we have done; we did make the case in terms of Croydon needing a fairer funding settlement to support that work. I am hopeful that the Government will lend us their support so we can continue with and maintain the excellent work going on to help the unaccompanied asylum seekers that we have welcomed in our borough.

Councillor Tony Newman

Leader of the Council