Latest News

All our thoughts this week have, of course, been focused on the awful Grenfell Tower tragedy and its victims, our prayers are with them. The Council has offered assistance to Kensington and Chelsea Council including an offer of accommodation.

In terms of a detailed report, Cllr Alison Butler will reference in her report and we will endeavour to keep all colleagues briefed.

On behalf of Croydon along with other borough leaders, I laid a wreath in honour of those who lost their lives in the brutal attack at London Bridge. Our thoughts are with all their families and those still recovering in hospital.

Of course, I’d also like to express my condolences after the tragic events in Manchester. A lot of compassion from our local people went out to Manchester and it was heartening to see our diverse community join together in the face of such an awful act committed to incite terror.

Croydon held a minute’s silence with the rest of the nation outside its Town Hall in honour of those who died both in London and Manchester.
After the excellent news from the General Elections, I wanted to celebrate the huge success of Croydon Central being won by the fantastic Sarah Jones MP for Labour. She is the first ever female MP to hold Croydon. It’s a fitting show to the local people that Croydon truly is a progressive borough as we also have our first ever female chief executive in Jo Negrini.

I’d like to thank the young people of Croydon for coming out in droves to vote and make their voices heard in the General Elections. This fantastic result is also due to their efforts and it’s so heartening to see them investing in their futures in Croydon.

The Croydon Cycle Fest took place on 18 May and was a brilliant event with a fantastic turn out. I was proud to see that the rain did little to dampen the spirits of our cycling enthusiasts as they took part in a host of community activities organised to promote cycling and encourage wellbeing to coincide with the Pearl Izumi Tour Series on 7 June.

It just goes to show the Croydon is definitely on the map. We have so many fantastic events going on here and Croydon is finally getting the recognition it deserves as a place to be.

During the evening, some of Britain’s leading professional cyclists did battle for the penultimate round of the nation’s leading team series. The event also included a race along part of the
course for local schools, opportunities for disabled riders to try out specialist bikes and a charity race around the whole track.

I was proud to see Elizabeth Jane Harris win the women’s race after she had spent that morning in a Croydon school teaching our young people about the benefits of cycling and fitness.

I’ve been out and about a lot recently visiting our wards to get more in touch with our residents with little fanfare. Most recently, I’ve been up to Addiscombe, Ashburton and New Addington and I’ll be heading over to Purley soon enough. It’s been a fantastic way to get to know what the people have to say about what is going on in their area.

I’ve gained a lot of insight into what concerns our local people. For example, when I went to visit Addiscombe, the independent business owners I spoke to were quite troubled about the Government rise in business rates and how it would affect them. It was fantastic being able to personally reassure them by talking them through what the Council were doing to help.

In Ashburton, we spoke to a few residents who truly welcome local housing for local people and the work going on to regenerate their homes. I plan to keep going out to the wards and getting to know Croydon this way.

I also appreciated being able to see the fine work our officers are doing to keep Croydon clean and tidy. I’m really proud to say that they have been doing a brilliant job of keeping our street scene clear. The residents themselves have also been a great help with the community clean ups they’ve organised. It’s been fantastic witnessing our residents coming together as a community like that and achieving great results.
I’m excited to hear that the Croydon Youth Zone, named by young people as ‘Legacy’ and located in Whitehorse Road Thornton Heath, will be completed in 2018.

Legacy will be a purpose-built facility open seven-days-a-week with more than 20 activities on offer every session for young people aged 8-19, or up to 25 for those with a disability from the borough. It’s fantastic to see that so much is going into keeping our young people safe and provisioned. There has been a history of underinvestment in the youth and Legacy will be an important part in changing that.

Youth Zones are safe, inspiring and affordable places for young people to spend their leisure time. Not only will the Youth Zone support those hard to reach young people, some from deprived backgrounds, but it will also provide a supportive and exciting place that all our young people from the borough can access to help them live happier lives.

Croydon’s Fairfield Halls is progressing fantastically. The plan for the building design has already received an award and it was great to read the Croydon Guardian article praising the Halls.

I am proud to say that we are putting art and culture in the very centre of our town as the Halls are being turned into a state of the art performance venue. It’s such an

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important landmark to our residents and I’m glad to say that it’s going fantastically as the Council’s development company, Brick by Brick, is now on site, with the refurbishment due to be completed in 2018.

Councillor Tony Newman

Leader of the Council