Investing in a Cleaner, Greener Croydon

I am delighted to announce some of the new initiative being introduced over the coming months as that this part of this administration’s investment of £1.28M in making Croydon a cleaner, greener place to live.

Eighty state of the art litter bins have now been installed in our town centres and other areas of high footfall. These Big Belly Solar Compactors can hold a much greater amount of waste than a normal litter bin as once inside, the litter is compressed down to a maximum of eight times its original size, meaning the bins have to be emptied far less often. Once the bins are approaching full, these bins send a message to the contractor to come and empty them. This ensures bins are only emptied when they need to be, and frees up Veolia’s staff to focus on other important work such as the removal of flytipping, which is currently being cleared at 85% in 48 hours.

The standard of street cleansing will also be greatly improved by fifty new ‘green machine’ vacuums that will transform the way the street sweepers keep our Borough clean. These 100% battery powered machines suck up any litter in their path and will make it easy for the street sweepers to tackle difficult to reach areas like between cars, as well as the back lines and channels of the road. These machines are in addition to the four mechanical sweepers already purchased which have already made a big improvement to the street cleansing regime. I will be running a competition with local residents in each of the fifty locations, to name their vacuums.
An anti-litter initiative is being launched in town centres as part of the Don’t Mess with Croydon campaign. Vibrant banners will be displayed from lamp columns informing residents that littering will not be tolerated in Croydon. There will also be green footprints stencilled into the pavements showing the way to the new bins. This anti-littering message will be backed up by a rigorous programme of enforcement with a zero tolerance message to littering and flytipping.

We have also invested in the purchase of two brand new refuse collection vehicles and three caged vehicles which will be dedicated to the proactive removal of fly-tips in the Borough. Last month we cleared 84% of all fly tips within 48 hours of being reported, and these new vehicles will help increase that figure even further.

Fly Tip Team Update

The Council’s recently formed Fly tip Task force which has been active since April 2017 has been busy in the borough focussing on areas identified from intelligence and proactive working with other services and stakeholders. The team has recently been active in the Selhurst Ward where initial activity in the first week of April elicited 11 Fixed Penalty Notices and more recently where they undertook a successful night time operation between the 19th and 20th May 2017. As a consequence of this activity they issued 33 Fixed Penalty Notices to suspected offenders.

The team moved on to Bensham Manor Ward where they commenced a similar operation commencing the week of the 22nd May 2017.

The Council has recently introduced £400 Fixed Penalty Notices for Flytipping offences under new legislative direction. They ae used primarily as a punitive option for the more complex and serious incidents of flytipping as an alternative to prosecution. To date we have issued 7 of these FPN’s all of which have been acknowledged and paid in full.

Since April 2016 to the end of May 2017, the Council’s borough wide Enforcement Teams have issued a total of 973 FPN’S for flytipping and littering offences" broken down as follows Litter -538 and Fly tip - 435.