

QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

| Question Number | Question asked by Councillor: | Subject |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES, REGENERATION AND PLANNING Councillor Alison Butler | | |
| CQ006-17 | Neal, M | Croydon College |
| CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN GREEN CROYDON Councillor Stuart Collins | | |
| CQ345-16 | Stranack, A | Fly-tipping expenses |
| CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMY AND JOBS Councillor Mark Watson | | |
| CQ003-17 | Creatura, M | Empty Units |
| CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT Councillor Stuart King | | |
| CQ009-17 | Pollard, H | Old Town parking permits |

CQ006-17 from Councillor Michael Neal

Councillor Alison Butler

As Croydon College is a major contributor to post 16 education, can you outline the time frame / plans associated with the closure and reopening of the College.

Is there provision for further study after the closure to ensure some aspect of Further Education continues in Croydon during the new building phase, in particularly Vocational Educational

Reply

In the event that redevelopment of the college goes ahead, the existing college will remain open throughout the construction of the new building. On completion of the new facility the college will transfer into the new building.

CQ345-16 **from Councillor Andy Stranack**

Councillor Stuart Collins, Cabinet Member for Clean Green Croydon

Can you breakdown the resources expended by the Council on fly-tipping activity in 2015/16?

Reply

Our service provider currently have 12 mobile crews assigned to clearance of flytips in the borough.

In terms of Croydon Council resources, we currently have 35 Neighbourhood Safety Officers and 5 Neighbourhood Safety Managers employed by London Borough of Croydon who carry out a variety of tasks and inspections. A significant part of their role is to tackle ASB, Littering and Fly tipping. NSOs can issue £80 on-the-spot Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) for littering and small fly tips. The NSOs are currently split into 5 geographic areas (NW/NE/SE/SW/Central).

NSOs also visit shops and carry out Duty of Care visits to ensure the shops all have adequate provision to deal with their waste. If the shops do not produce sufficient evidence of waste disposal, the NSOs can serve a notice on the shop to produce a waste contract. Failure to produce a waste contract can carry a penalty of a £300 FPN, or even prosecution. The idea behind the proactive Duty of Care visits is to reduce commercial fly tipping across the Borough.

For anything deemed to be too serious or too complicated to be dealt with on the spot by means of an FPN, warning or a straight forward formal notice the case is referred to the Environmental Enforcement Officers (EEOs) to investigate further.

There are 5 EEO's who deal with a number of Highway and other Environmental Enforcement issues including Illegal Encampments across the Borough. EEOs can also issue FPNs for a variety of issues including Highway Offences, Littering, Fly tipping (the newer £400 FPNs), Duty of Care offences £300, Waste Carrying (without a licence) £300. If a matter is not suitable to be dealt with by means of an FPN, the EEOs can prosecute for any of those offences. EEOs are managed by the Environmental Enforcement Manager.

The NSO teams will soon be changing to try and better meet the needs of the Borough. There will soon be 3 area teams (down from 5), these will be designated North, Central and South teams, with two more directed and specialist teams, a Flytip Taskforce team and a Trade Waste Team. Numbers of officers will stay the same but it is hoped that the new set up will be able to react better to specific issues.

CQ003-17 **from Councillor Mario Creatura**

Councillor Mark Watson

Could the Council please provide detail on plans for currently empty units from the junction of George Street/Church Street/High Street and North End to the junction of High Street and Scarbrook Road in the Town Centre?

In particular the following empty units:

- Yates'
- Tiger Tiger
- Banana Joe's
- Roxbury Nighclub
- 43 High Street (seemingly empty unit in between The Spreadeagle and The Ship)
- 53 High Street (empty unit next to Sainsbury's Local)

What is the Council's policy on encouraging businesses to invest in this area of Croydon? What talks are in place to fill these empty units and when can we expect new business to appear in this section of the Town Centre?

Reply

| Property | Status |
|---|---|
| Yates' 3-11 High Street | <i>Managed by Nash Bond</i> Contracts have been exchanged with a restaurant who will take occupation shortly. The space is due to be occupied by the popular burger chain, Five Guys who obtained planning approval for the change of use class from a bar/club to a fast food restaurant in spring 2016. Five Guys are currently going through planning for their shop front. |
| Tiger Tiger 16 High Street | Turtle Bay is a national Caribbean restaurant chain which has taken a lease of the former Tiger Tiger premises. The restaurant is due to open on Sunday 29 th January. |
| Banana Joe's 15 High Street | <i>Managed by Stuart Edwards Fullermoon</i> The unit has been let to Stitch and Thimble who are currently letting 37 High Street. |
| Roxbury Nightclub 19-21 High Street | <i>Managed by Stuart Edwards Fullermoon</i> This property has been let to a retailer is who is currently fitting out the property. No further information has been disclosed. |
| 43 High Street | <i>Managed by Jenkins Law</i> |

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| | This property is currently under offer and is designated for D1 (non-residential institutions) use. The intended use is for a dentist who will occupy the ground and basement floors. |
| 49-53 High Street | <p><i>Managed by David Menzies Associates</i></p> <p>The property is currently under offer and is designated for A1 (shops), A2 (financial and professional services) or A3 (restaurants and cafés) use. No further information has been disclosed.</p> |

Croydon's Inward Investment team provides a dedicated, customer focused service to businesses actively seeking premises across the borough and the town centre.

The team works directly with businesses to understand their requirements as potential occupiers, and specialises in providing an efficient process-driven approach to identifying potential spaces in the borough and assisting businesses throughout the site evaluation and acquisition process.

The Inward Investment team also actively promotes the town centre and the wider borough to new investors and occupiers through direct engage as well as by working closely with external partners such as London & Partners and the Dept. for International Trade to promote Croydon to national and foreign investors and occupiers.

In order to further support new and existing businesses in Croydon, the Council offers a free-to-use job brokerage service, Croydon Works, to employers/businesses recruiting in Croydon which further encourages businesses to invest in the borough. www.croydonworks.co.uk

In addition, the Council has recently introduced a local discretionary business rate relief policy that can potentially offer support to Croydon occupiers achieving the following outcomes:

1. Supporting inward investment from large companies bringing significant numbers of new jobs to the borough;
2. Supporting smaller businesses to locate in the area and helping them through difficult periods to become sustainable in the longer term;
3. Bringing empty space back into use to support the economy.

CQ009-17 **from Councillor Helen Pollard**

Councillor Stuart King

I have had complaints from residents in Old Town that they are being issued with parking permits but the number of permits being issued is far greater than the number of spaces that is available. As a result they are unable to park. They are also concerned that permits are being issued to residents of new, dense, housing developments in surrounding roads, that are built without parking. Please can you advise me how many parking permits have been issued for these roads/developments

- The Old Dairy, Meadow Stile
- Meadow Stile
- Wandle Road
- Queen Street
- West Street
- Laud Street
- Sheldon Street
- Lower Coombe Street
- Church Road

For each of the streets in the above list, please state the number of parking spaces that are available for permit holders.

Will there conditions attached to future flatted developments in this area (that are built without parking spaces) to say that residents will not be issued with parking permits?

Will permits be issued to everyone who requests them or will there be a limit on the number issued. If there is a limit, how is the maximum number decided?

Reply

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Please see below, this is based on permits that were valid on the 26th of January 2017.

- The Old Dairy, Meadow Stile – 8 Valid Permits (Central Zone)
- Meadow Stile – 3 Valid Permits (Central Zone)
- Wandle Road – 50 Valid Permits (Central Zone)
- Queen Street – 20 Valid Permits (Central Zone)
- West Street – 36 Valid Permits (Central Zone)
- Laud Street – 26 Valid Permits (Central Zone)
- Sheldon Street – 9 Valid Permits (Central Zone)
- Lower Coombe Street – 11 Valid Permits (West Zone)
- Church Road – 82 Valid Permits (Central Zone)

For each of the streets in the above list, please state the number of parking spaces that are available for permit holders.

- The Old Dairy, Meadow Stile – 0
- Meadow Stile – 0
- Wandle Road – 27
- Queen Street – 11
- West Street – 29
- Laud Street – 34
- Sheldon Street – 14
- Lower Coombe Street – 0
- Church Road – 15

Please note permits are issued by zone and not by street.

Will there conditions attached to future flatted developments in this area (that are built without parking spaces) to say that residents will not be issued with parking permits?

Virtually all recent (approximately over the last 8 years) and new developments where there are 10 or more households have Section 106 Planning restrictions preventing residents from obtaining permits. For smaller developments of 9 or less households we have introduced our own restrictions allowing a maximum of 1 permit per household and no visitor permits. Some older developments that have no Section 106 agreement have a limited number of permits available to residents and a waiting list to reduce the impact on parking in these areas – please see point 3 below. For other older developments with 10 or more households we are allowing existing permits to be renewed but refusing permits for new residents. It is worth pointing out that there are very few of these types of developments in this area.

Will permits be issued to everyone who requests them or will there be a limit on the number issued. If there is a limit, how is the maximum number decided?

For single households (houses) there is currently a limit of 3 permits per household. £80 for the first permit, £126 for the second and £305 for the third permit to manage the number of multi-permit households. There is also a £30 admin charge for all new permits but this doesn't apply for renewals.

Developments with a limit on the number of permits available are all outside this immediate area but include Centrillion Point, 2 Masons Avenue (30 permits available), Centre View Apartments, 4 Whitgift Street (15 permits available) and the Exchange, 6 Scarbrook Road

(30 permits available). These figures were based on the availability of parking bays in this part of the Central Permit Zone at the time that the limit was introduced. There will be no new developments where permits will be allowed either through a Section 106 or our own separate controls.