

# Clean Green Croydon Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Stuart Collins December 2018



### **New Service Roll Out**

The contract with the South London Waste Partnership was predicated on harmonising collection methodologies between the four boroughs (Croydon, Kingston, Merton & Sutton) and all are separating the same streams of waste and recycling. The most cost-effective and efficient solutions that came back from the industry experts through the procurement process made it clear that Croydon's existing twin stream approach to recycling (separating paper and card from other dry mixed recycling) was preferred. Changes to bin sizes and capacity were recommended to improve efficiencies, maximise the income we can get from selling recycled materials and keep our streets cleaner. The revenue savings over the initial 8 year period of the contract of £35m against a cumulative budget of £98.489m over the same period.

We have made a bold decision to reduce the size of the landfill bins for many of our residents and increase the capacity for recycling because we are committed to increasing the recycling rate to over 50% and making Croydon one of the cleanest, greenest boroughs in London but also as I have repeatedly mentioned doing our bit for the planet as I'm sure will agree our environment is important to us as a council.

National statistics state we can currently recycle over 73% of our household waste and yet in Croydon we only recycle 38% under the previous box arrangement - one of the key reasons for this was that 60% of the total waste capacity was dedicated to landfill which sends the message that it's ok not to recycle, which in turn costs the council millions in disposal fees. By giving people more capacity to recycle and less capacity for landfill we can redress this trend and make it easy for people to recycle. To put into context by increasing recycling to 50% this will reduce the amount of non-recyclable waste by 160,000 tonnes over the next 10years. Non-recyclable waste is far more expensive and damaging to the environment than recyclable waste. And the cost of waste disposal, as well as the number of households we need to collect from, is increasing with population growth. Doing nothing would result in considerable additional cost to the council and divert already diminishing budgets from central government away from other critical services such as protecting our young and caring for the our older citizens.



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Having now completed week twelve of the new service roll out there continues to be improvement in the service delivery and the overall missed collection for the borough remains under 1%. Although I understand that this is a significant change for the majority of the borough I strongly believe this is one we needed to make to push recycling rates higher and reduce the amount of landfill we produce. We have seen the volume of landfill waste significantly decrease since the start of the service roll out, with well over 1000 tonne reduction in landfill waste in the past two months alone.

## Mayor Of London's Fund for Water Fountains

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan is working with Thames Water to fund a network of new drinking water fountains, helping to reduce the number of single-use plastic bottles in the capital. Croydon have submitted a bid for funding for the maximum of five sites to Mayor of London's fund for water fountains. We will see how this goes and then there is no stopping the Council and Councillors working with park groups to locate them.

### **GM Contract**

The council announced its intention to bring the grounds maintenance service in house in May 2018 which is currently undertaken by Idverde, the service will transfer back to Croydon from the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019. Officers are currently mobilising the new service and the transfer off ALL staff currently employed by Idverde. In addition ALL staff will be paid as a minimum the London Living Wage and the council will be working closer with our Friends of groups to maximise the benefits of our parks and open spaces.





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THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAYS FOR YOU TO LET US KNOW ABOUT ANY PROBLEMS WITH ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES SUCH AS MISSED BINS, FLY-TIPS, GRAFFITI, ETC ARE...

### Online 24/7

www.croydon.gov.uk/doitonline/report-it where you can see a full list of everything that you can report online.

## Using my account

Use My Account www.croydon.gov.uk/myaccount to check if we know about a problem and, if we don't, you can either report anonymously or set up an account where you can track the progress of your report. Please see My Account for a complete list of services available.

### **Phone**

Our customer contact centre is open Monday to Friday between 9 and 4, and our advisers are on hand to help you. Call 020 8726 6200 for all environmental issues including waste collections, recycling and potholes. Call the fly-tip hotline on: 020 8604 7000 (option 2 for fly-tipping)

### **Email**

Email us on: flytip@croydon.gov.uk

### App

Download the free Don't Mess With Croydon smartphone app and you can report issues to us on the go in 3 easy steps.

- Select the category you want to report
- Add a photo
- Confirm the location and you're done!

Complete list of services available on the app.

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