



Environment, Transport and Urban Regeneration March 2019



Councillor Paul Scott (Job Share)
Lead for Urban Regeneration

Councillor Stuart King (Job Share)
Lead for Environment and Transport

Urban Regeneration

Transforming our City Centre – an update on key town centre projects



101 George Street

With the podium nearing completion the developers plan to start installing the prefabricated pods that will create 100's of new homes for rent

Queens Square - demolition is well underway on both phases 1 and 2, although planning consent is yet to be granted for the second phase

Demolition of some of our least attractive office blocks is well underway with JCBs hoisted on to the roofs to speed things along.





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The Old Taberner House Site - after significant works in the ground the new development starts to rise above the hoardings. The scheme will deliver 513 new homes, with over 45% of them being affordable

Photo of the Queens Gardens Development with columns starting to emerge above the hoardings



Cairo New Road

The concrete frame of the tower and podium is taking shape on this residential development for 113 new homes

Like 101 George Street, Pocket's 100% affordable Addiscombe Grove scheme will largely be constructed using prefabricated modules. The first of these have now arrived on site. They are the black boxes sitting on the concrete podium above two of the low loaders used to transport them to site.

Additional cranes being installed on top of the lift cores to hoist the pre-fabricated housing modules into place





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Conservation Area Panels meeting

Within the Borough there are 3 Conservation Area Advisory Panels who engage with the Planning Department principally when there are developments/planning applications which could affect the Borough's conservation areas. The 3 panels cover North, South and Mid Croydon. Officers within the Planning department have been keen to engage further with bodies who have a particular interest in the planning system and over the last year meetings have been held with representatives from Residents Associations and with developers. As part of this ongoing additional engagement a recent meeting was held between officers, Councillor Paul Scott and representatives from the 3 panels with a view to building on the current working relationship. The meeting was very positive, informative and provided lots of food for thought as to how the engagement can evolve in the future.

Ambassador House Forecourt competition - Team selected to lead the design of Thornton Heath public space



An architectural collective is to lead proposals for a new meanwhile community space at Ambassador House forecourt in Thornton Heath, following a design competition run by the Regeneration Team at Croydon Council. A team comprising of Compendium, Studio Yu and Tomos, will be leading on the design, together with local artists Van Dang and Bareface.

The space will be called CR7 Square, and will be decorated with wall art reflecting the local area. The Council's Regeneration Team will be coordinating a series of community events on the square over the summer – from cultural activities linking in with the CR7 Arts week and Thornton Heath festival, to sporting taster sessions run in collaboration with the local leisure centre.

The winning team want the design to emerge through listening and learning from the community, and the main focus of their submission was about creating a collaborative process with local residents and artists. Follow the design as it develops and stay in touch with the team on Facebook or Instagram @CR7Square



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5. Brokenshire praises Croydon for its housing delivery

James Brokenshire (Secretary of State) was complimentary about Croydon at the Building London Summit recently. He said the following:

“London’s boroughs can and must also lead the charge – both individually and by working together across boundaries – to match the record of those such as Croydon, Westminster and Wandsworth, which are going the extra mile to build more homes.”

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/building-london-summit-2019>

6. Croydon Council supports JR following Secretary of States perverse decision to refuse the Purley Baptist Church scheme in Purley - Pete/Heather

Purley Baptist Church

Further to my previous Bulletin, the Council has now formally supported the developer of the Purley Baptist Church, who has challenged the Secretary of State’s decision to refuse planning permission, contrary to the expressed views of his own Planning Inspector. I eagerly await the outcome of the judicial process and hopefully common sense will prevail.

Somewhat ironically and immediately prior to the Council’s legal submission to the Court, when addressing the London Building Summit the Secretary of State, James Brokenshire encouraged other boroughs to match Croydon’s record to build more homes. It is therefore very disappointing that he has apparently failed to follow his own convictions and approve 220 new homes for Purley, on a site crying out for regeneration.

7. Competition launched to develop a landmark design for Croydon’s Fair Field - the historic location of Croydon’s medieval fairs that will now become a 21st century events space focused on the refurbished and expanded Fairfield Halls

Fair Field public space tender opportunity now live

Tenders from exceptional architects and landscape architects to shape one of the most important public spaces in Croydon’s town centre are now being accepted.

Last month the Council announced it was looking for the best in local, national, and international architects and landscape architects to express their interest in wanting to help shape the Fair Field public space in the town centre.



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It must be remembered for centuries, fairs were held annually on Fair Field, its name before it was College Green or Fairfield Gardens, with cattle fairs and Croydon's Great Fair taking place on the site, providing entertainment for all ages.

Now situated in Croydon's new cultural quarter, Fair Field will be important for the town centre as a cultural, civic and community hub, providing the setting for the Fairfield Halls, which is reopening in September of this year following a multi-million pound investment by the Council.

It is anticipated Fair Field will incorporate the use of water, lighting and other innovative technologies, providing a platform for cultural and community activity linked to the Fairfield Halls.

Tender submissions need to be made by 12noon on 7 March.

Transport and Environment

8. Purley Sheffield Stand

Cycle parking 'Sheffield stands' have been installed at 14 locations along the Brighton Road. This is just one small part of our programme to introduce several hundred cycle parking stands on streets across the borough at locations people travel to. In turn, the cycle parking programme is just a part of our multimillion pound investment in cycling infrastructure to help more people enjoy the benefits of cycling and be active as part of their daily travel routine.





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9. Winter maintenance programme and preparedness

The preparations made for winter maintenance programme had been tested with the recent cold snap.

The extra capacity provided by the new salt barn and temporary storage area meant they was plenty of salt for the gritting operations (around 4.5k tonnes). The new term contractor FM Conway have undertaken such operations for Transport for London roads and other boroughs so had the experience, staff and vehicles to tackle Croydon roads once they became familiar with our roads and gritting routes.

With our dedicated weather forecast the Council winter service teams were ready to mobilise for the recent snow conditions.

With Veolia diverting their staff from normal cleansing duties to gritting the footways and pathways, was of tremendous help. It does mean that normal cleansing and road maintenance services other than emergencies are suspended so we can make sure that routes are as safe as we can make them subject to sometimes rapid changes in conditions which are difficult to predict on occasions.

There are over 580 grit bins, placed around the borough as self help for residents to treat localised areas themselves.

Our priority is always to keep Croydon safe when faced with such cold weather conditions.

- We have been out gritting 18 times since the start of this winter season(Season started 29th October 2018)
- We have spread approximately 650 Tonnes of salt along the equivalent of 4,200 miles of road, which is approximately the distance between London and Nairobi in Kenya.





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10. New Electric Vehicle Charging Points

New public charging points for electric vehicles are currently being installed across Croydon. The first eight new charging points have been installed at three different locations, Colson Road, Edridge Road and Tavistock Road .

The sites were chosen after residents approached the council to ask for charging infrastructure and are some of the 400 charging points to be installed across the borough by 2022.

Specific locations are chosen following approaches by residents or businesses and are designed to help deliver a borough-wide network of charging points as well as support zero and low emission transport initiatives.

We are installing these charging points at locations where we know there is demand, and as part of ambitious plans to promote wider use of electric vehicles.

We are determined to make sustainable journeys across Croydon easier than ever before and a key part of that is expanding our green infrastructure to meet growing demand for it. We are committed to working with communities to tackle air pollution.

11. Permanent Pedestrianisation of High Street

A temporary scheme making Croydon High Street a pedestrian zone is set to be made permanent after the proposal was supported by the council's Traffic Management Advisory Committee on 05th February. The site has already hosted Street Live, a free programme of music, dance and theatre performances, as well as a play street and screenings of Wimbledon.

A temporary experimental traffic order restricting vehicles from driving along the road between the junction with Park Street and Katharine Street was made a year ago but would have ended in April. But now the permanent closure of High Street will begin in April. This will allow the road to temporarily reopen for traffic rerouted by the closure of St George's Walk for the R&F Queen's Square development. This reopening will take place over two weeks in the middle of April, during the Easter holidays, and will preserve bus routes through Croydon.

The scheme is part of Croydon Council's £525m infrastructure and development programme delivering improvements across central Croydon in partnership with Transport for London and the Greater London Authority.